



2003

GEORGIA

DRIVERS

MANUAL

Customer Service Centers

Conyers, Headquarters, Driver Services 404-657-9300

CSC 40, ALBANY	229-430-4251	CSC 67, LITHONIA	678-413-4230
CSC 10, AMERICUS	229-931-2535	CSC 53, MACON	478-751-6031
CSC 32, ATHENS	706-542-9928	CSC 56, MARIETTA	770-528-3251
CSC 51, AUGUSTA	706-771-7816	CSC 33, MILLEDGEVILLE	478-445-4717
CSC 27, BLUE RIDGE	706-632-2216	CSC 52, MORELAND	404-624-2469
CSC 23, BRUNSWICK	912-264-7394	CSC 64, NORCROSS	770-840-2282
CSC 41, CALHOUN	706-624-1333	CSC 86, NORTH COBB	770-528-5400
CSC 28, CANTON	770-720-3599	CSC 24, NEWNAN	770-254-7270
CSC 50, CAPITOL	404-656-2186	CSC 15, PERRY	478-988-6972
CSC 03, CARTERSVILLE	770-387-3703	CSC 18, REIDSVILLE	912-557-7780
CSC 29, CEDARTOWN	770-749-2203	CSC 62, RINCON	912-754-1425
CSC 55, COLUMBUS	706-569-3033	CSC 41, ROCK SPRINGS	706-764-3755
CSC 46, CONYERS	770-388-5015	CSC 38, ROME	706-295-6013
CSC 30, CORDELE	229-276-2332	CSC 58, SANDY SPRINGS	770-551-7373
CSC 08, COVINGTON	770-784-3197	CSC 42, SAVANNAH	912-691-7400
CSC 37, CUMMING	770-205-5401	CSC 45, STATESBORO	912-681-5999
CSC 05, DALTON	706-272-2272	CSC 19, SWAINSBORO	478-289-2595
CSC 36, DOUGLAS	912-384-1600	CSC 26, THOMASTON	706-646-6454
CSC 20, DUBLIN	478-275-6600	CSC 12, THOMASVILLE	229-227-2500
CSC 63, EVANS	706-868-8138	CSC 25, THOMSON	706-595-2973
CSC 87, FAYETTEVILLE	770-460-2736	CSC 13, TIFTON	229-386-3530
CSC 59, FOREST PARK	404-669-3977	CSC 07, TOCCOA	706-282-4821
CSC 06, GAINESVILLE	770-532-5051	CSC 31, VALDOSTA	229-333-5217
CSC 01, GRIFFIN	770-229-3411	CSC 04, VILLA RICA	770-459-3549
CSC 16, HELENA	229-868-3073	CSC 60, UNION CITY	770-306-6909
CSC 11, HINESVILLE	912-370-2604	CSC 61, WARNER ROBINS	478-929-6774
CSC 02, LaGRANGE	706-845-4108	CSC 22, WAYCROSS	912-285-6296
CSC 54, LAWRENCEVILLE	770-995-6935		

COMMERCIAL DRIVING TESTS ARE AVAILABLE AT:

CSC 6 — GAINESVILLE
1010 AVIATION BLVD.
GAINESVILLE, GA

CSC 25 — THOMSON
172 BOB KIRK RD.
THOMSON, GA

CSC 33 — MILLEDGEVILLE
200 CARL VINSON RD.
MILLEDGEVILLE, GA

RENEWAL ONLY SITES ARE LISTED ON THE INSIDE BACK COVER

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**VISIT THE DMVS WEB SITE FOR MORE
INFORMATION AND FORMS**

www.dmv.ga.gov

PRINT DATE: JANUARY, 2003



STATE OF GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ATLANTA 30334-0900

My Fellow Georgians,

As Governor of Georgia, I encourage you to study carefully the rules, laws and safety tips offered to you in the Georgia Driver's Manual. The manual not only will help you pass the driver's examination, but also can help you to be a safer driver on our roads.

I would like to draw your attention to the portions of the manual concerning seat belts, speed and driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The majority of all fatal traffic crashes in this state involve speed, an impaired driver or lack of seatbelt or child restraint use. I urge you to read these sections carefully and then apply that knowledge as you drive.

Seat belts save lives. It has been proven that wearing a seat belt reduces the severity of injuries in a car crash, saves lives and keeps people from slamming into one another inside the vehicle. Georgia has made tremendous strides in increasing the seat belt usage rate through high visibility enforcement of the occupant protection laws.

Together we can all help to make our roads and highways a safer place to travel. Together we can set the example for the remainder of the country.

Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue
Sonny Perdue



Dear Georgia Drivers:

The Georgia Driver's Manual has been prepared by the Department of Motor Vehicle Safety. I believe that you will find the information in this manual very helpful whether you are a current or future Georgia driver. The information is designed to prepare new drivers for their first license as well as to provide the more experienced driver with new and important information enabling them to be a better driver.

I would like to deliver a special message to all those young adults about to get their first license. Please read carefully the chapter on traffic laws. Due to the rise in teenage injuries and deaths, many of these laws are specific to young drivers. These added restrictions are designed to ensure a safer environment for you to learn to drive.

To the more experienced drivers, I encourage you to read and review the chapter on safety rules. With more and more vehicles on the roads of Georgia it is imperative that we constantly practice all of these best practices in safe and courteous driving.

The DMVS is committed to constantly improving the level of customer service we provide for all of your motor vehicle services. We ask that you commit yourself to buckling your seatbelts, obeying the rules of the road, and being a very safe driver.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tim Burgess'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tim Burgess
Commissioner



Department of Motor Vehicle Safety

Board Members

Kelly Gay, Chairperson

Hipolito M. Goico, Vice Chairman

Allan Vigil, Secretary

Hugh Hardison

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John Mobley

Katherine Sherrington

Thomas H. Smith

Roderick R. Wallace

LICENSE CLASSIFICATIONS
















- Class A** — Combination vehicles over 26,001 pounds, with a trailer in excess of 10,000 pounds. Vehicles included in Classes B and C.
- Class B** — Single vehicles over 26,001 pounds. May tow a trailer 10,000 pounds or less.
- Class C** — All motor vehicles not included in Classes A, B or M. May tow a trailer 10,000 pounds or less. All recreational vehicles.
- Class D** — Provisional License - All vehicles not included in classes A, B, or M. May tow trailer 10,000 pounds or less. May not operate:

- A. Between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 6:00 am
- B. During six-month period immediately following issuance of such license, any class D license holder shall not drive when any other passenger in the vehicle is not a member of the driver's immediate family.

During the second six month period any Class D license holder shall not drive when more than three passengers in the vehicle are less than 21 years of age. (Members of the driver's immediate family do not count)

- Class M** — Motorcycles and motor driven cycles.
- Class P** — Learner's permits

A Class C license is a prerequisite for all classes except Classes D and M. Classes C and B may tow a trailing unit 10,000 lbs. or less. Class CP must be accompanied by a licensed adult driver, 21 years or older, who is occupying a seat beside the driver. Class MP (Instructional permit) holders are restricted as follows: 1. Daylight hours only; 2. No passengers; 3. No limited access roads; and 4. Safety equipment as provided by law. Classes A and B instructional permit holders must also hold a Class C license.

THIS CLASS OF LICENSE AUTHORIZES DRIVING THESE TYPES OF MOTOR VEHICLES:						
	TRACTOR-TRAILER COMBINATIONS	TRUCKS 26,001 LBS. OR OVER	BUSES	TRUCKS UP TO 26,000 LBS.	PASSENGER CARS	MOTORCYCLES
CLASS A						
CLASS B						
CLASS C						
CLASS M						
CLASS C, D						
		ANY OF THE CLASSES MAY BE ENDORSED INCLUDING MOTORCYCLES				

License Restrictions:

A	no restriction
B	corrective lens
C	mechanical aids
D	business only
E	automatic transmission
F	right side mirror
G	daylight only
H	employer's vehicle only
I	left outside mirror
J	prosthetic aid
K	Georgia only
L	without air brakes
M	no expressways
N	power brakes
O	power steering
P	Interlock
Q	no passengers
R	motorcycles 500 cc & under
S	to/from school
T	to/from medical
U	all motorcycles except X
V	class B or C passenger vehicles
W	class C passenger vehicles
X	motorcycle three wheel
Y	farm waiver required
Z	visually impaired parent
1	bioptic lens
2	personal vehicles only
3	to and from employment/medical care/school/ court ordered driver improvement/driver education/drug/alcohol program,scheduled meet ings of organizations for persons who have alcohol/ drug addiction/abuse problemsor ignition interlock station. Interlock Device required.

SECTION I

Chapter I - Driver's License

This handbook has two main purposes: (1) To help you qualify for a Georgia driver's license and (2) To help you become a safer driver. The information contained in this handbook is not intended to be an official legal reference to the Georgia traffic laws. It is intended only to explain, in everyday language, those laws and driving practices and procedures which you will need most often. **DON'T THROW THIS HANDBOOK AWAY AFTER YOU PASS YOUR DRIVING TESTS.** Please return it to the examining station when you get your license, pass it on to another applicant, or keep it in your vehicle for easy reference.

A Georgia driver's license is required for:

1. Any resident who wishes to legally drive upon Georgia highways.
2. Any new resident who has lived in Georgia for more than 30 days.

A Georgia driver's license is not required for:

1. A nonresident who is at least sixteen years of age and who is in immediate possession of a valid driving permit issued in the home state or country of that person's residence.
2. Any employee of the United States Government, including military and reserves, while operating a motor vehicle owned or leased to the United States Government. This is a valid exception unless an employee is required by the United States Government, or that person's Federal Agency, to have a Georgia driver's license.
3. A nonresident on active duty in the Armed Forces who has a valid license from their home state. This is also true for a spouse and any dependent children.
4. A nonresident, full time student at a college or university in Georgia, and such person's spouse and children, if they have a valid license from their home state. (Must show proof that out-of-state tuition has been paid to college or university).
5. Any person on active duty in the Armed Forces holding a valid license issued in a foreign country by the Armed Forces of the United States. This exception is limited to a period of 45 days from the date of return to the U.S.A.
6. A new resident may drive in Georgia for the first 30 days on their valid license issued in another state or country.
7. Any inmate or resident patient of a state, county, or municipally-owned institution, who operates a motor vehicle while under the supervision and in the presence of an authorized person, upon the institution's property.
8. Any person operating a farm tractor or farm equipment that is temporarily on a highway for the purpose of conducting farm business.

9. A nonresident of the State of Georgia or a non-immigrant of the United States, who is at least 16 years of age and who is in immediate possession of a valid driving permit issued in the home state or country of that person's residence.
10. Any migrant farmworker who works in this state less than 90 days in any calendar year and who possesses a valid driver's license issued by another state.
11. Any resident who is at least 15 years of age or over while taking instruction from a licensed driving instructor or a certified high school driver education instructor.

HOW A RESIDENT OBTAINS A GEORGIA DRIVER'S LICENSE

1. If a new resident who is at least 18 years of age surrenders to the examiner a valid driver's license from another state of the United States or District of Columbia, a Georgia license will be issued upon successful completion of an eye test. Holders of foreign licenses or licenses issued by United States Territories and Possessions will be required to successfully complete the eye test, road rules test, road signs test, and an actual driving test. (See page 11, paragraph 4, for a list of other documentation required for any first time application for a Georgia license.)
2. If a new resident presents an expired out-of-state license or if the out-of-state license has been lost or misplaced, a Georgia license will be issued upon successful completion of an eye test, road rules test, road signs test, and an actual driving test.

Additionally, prior to testing, the new resident must present identification and proof of residency listed on page 11 of this manual and a valid clearance letter or certified motor vehicle report from the former jurisdiction. The letter of clearance must be dated within 30 days of the application date.

3. If a new resident who is under 18 years of age surrenders a valid out-of-state license, a Georgia license will be issued upon successful completion of an eye test, road rules test, road signs test, and an actual driving test. Any applicant for the initial issuance of a Class C license who is not the holder of the equivalent thereof by any state of the United States or The District of Columbia must present:

Proof of completion of an approved driver education course in a licensed private or public driver training school with accumulative total of at least 20 hours supervised driving experience with 6 hours at night; **or** have completed a cumulative total of at least 40 hours of supervised driving experience including at least 6 hours of night driving. These must be verified in writing, signed before a person authorized to administer oaths, by a parent or guardian of the applicant, or by the applicant if he/she is eighteen years of age or older.

DRIVER'S LICENSE CLASSIFICATION

Georgia driver's license are classified according to the type and weight of vehicles which may be operated by the person to whom they are issued.

Class A

Truck tractor-semitrailer combination in which the combination weight exceeds 26,001 pounds and trailing unit exceeds 10,000 pounds and vehicles in Class B and C. Applicants must possess a Class C license before obtaining a Class A and be at least 18 years of age.

A single driver's license, with a combination of classifications, will be issued to qualified persons who wish to drive various types of vehicles.

Applicants for a driver's license in Classes A or B (non-commercial) must submit a DS form #36 (Affidavit showing minimum driving experience of 3 months and/or 3,000 miles in type of vehicle for class of license being applied for.)

Class B

Single vehicles weighing 26,001 or more pounds; may tow a trailing unit of less than 10,000 pounds; and motor vehicles included within Class C. Applicants must possess a Class C license prior to obtaining a Class B license and be at least 18 years of age.

Class C

Motor vehicles less than 26,001 pounds and all vehicles not included within Classes A, B and M. This includes passenger cars, trucks and vehicles pulling a trailing unit that weighs less than 10,000 pounds. All recreational vehicles may be operated with a Class C license. Applicant must be at least 18 years of age.

Class D

Provisional license for Class C vehicles. May not operate between 12:00 midnight and 6:00 a.m. During six-month period immediately following issuance of such license any Class D license holder shall not drive when any passenger in the vehicle is not a member of driver's immediate family. During the second six month period any Class D license holder shall not drive when more than three passengers in the vehicle are less than 21 years of age. (Members of the driver's immediate family do not count).

Note:

It is mandatory for an applicant under the age of 18 to obtain a Class CP learner's permit before taking the Class D driver's license examination. The instructional permit must be held for one year and a day prior to receiving a Class D provisional license. Class A & B applicants must possess or have satisfied the requirements for a Class C license before applying for a Class A & B license. A certified copy of the motor vehicle report from the former jurisdiction will be required in order to give credit for a license or permit held in another state. (refer to page 11.)

Class M

Motorcycles and motor-driven cycles are included in this class. An applicant must be at least 16 years of age in order to get a Class M license, but is not required to possess a Class C license before applying for this license.

Mopeds

Mopeds are motor-driven cycles equipped with two or three wheels, foot pedals to permit muscular propulsion and an independent power source providing a maximum of two brake horsepower.

Mopeds are exempt from the provisions relating to the registration and licensing of motor vehicles.

Rules to operate mopeds on Georgia roads and highways:

1. Must be 15 years of age and have in their possession a valid driver's license, instructional permit or limited permit.
2. Must wear protective headgear (motorcycle helmet).
3. No tag is required.
4. Every person operating a moped upon a roadway must obey the same traffic laws governing drivers of motor vehicles.
5. May not use limited access highways or other roadways where the minimum speed limit is above 35 mph.

INSTRUCTIONAL PERMIT REQUIREMENTS (LEARNER'S PERMIT)

Class C: Instructional Permit

Applicant must be at least 15 years old and be able to pass the eye and knowledge test. When driving, there must be a licensed driver at least 21 years old in the front seat with him or her at all times. The permit is valid for 24 months. Parental consent is required for applicants under 18 years of age.

Class M: Instructional Permit

The applicant must be at least 16 years of age and have parental consent if under 18. Applicant must pass an eye and knowledge test. The permit is valid for 6 months and will allow the applicant to operate motorcycles and motor-driven cycles with the following restrictions: no passengers, no expressways, daylight hours only, and/or certain other applicable restrictions.

Class A and B Instructional Permits

The applicant must be 18 years old, already possess a Class C license, and must pass visual acuity and knowledge tests.

VETERANS & NATIONAL GUARD LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Veteran's License

Veterans must successfully pass an eye test every 4 years to maintain a valid license. Upon successfully passing the eye test, a Class C license will be issued. To obtain any other Class of license, the veteran must submit to the total examinations for the Class of license desired and submit (DS36) for Class A and B Non-Commercial.

1. A veteran must present evidence of honorable, active duty service in the Armed Forces of the United States. Evidence must also be presented that the veteran was a resident of the State of Georgia at the time of enlistment or induction (and that their home was in Georgia at that time) or that the veteran had been enlisted or commissioned elsewhere and has been a resident of Georgia for at least 5 consecutive years preceding the date of application. Other required information includes enlistment or commission and separation dates, serial number, date of birth, etc.

All of this information is contained on your copy of the Armed Forces separation papers (Form DD214). Activation for training purposes does not qualify you for the Georgia Veteran's License. The DD214 must be presented to any office of the State Department of Veteran Services for a review by that Agency. The qualified veteran will be issued a certificate of eligibility (DS516), signed by the veteran and the certifying official. This certificate and DD214 is then presented, by the veteran, to any examining office of the Department of Motor Vehicle Safety for any required test and issuance of the license.

2. The spouse of a disabled, honorably separated veteran who does not have a driver's license or the unmarried spouse of a deceased, honorably separated veteran, is entitled to the same benefits as those received by the veteran. Application for this type license is established in the same fashion as outlined in the previous paragraph. For the unmarried spouse, the death certificate along with DD214 must be submitted to the State Department of Veteran Services to obtain a certificate of eligibility.

National Guard

1. All members or former members of the Georgia National Guard or reserve forces, who have 20 or more years of creditable service, are entitled to a veteran's license. A document of certification must be obtained from the Adjutant General of the State of Georgia, stating the applicant's eligibility, and presented to any examining office of the Department of Motor Vehicle Safety.
2. A distinctive license may be issued to any member of the Georgia National Guard in good standing who has completed at least one year of satisfactory service. A certificate of eligibility (DS-318) form must be obtained from the local National Guard Commanding Officer; and presented to any examining office of the Department of Motor Vehicle Safety. This license is renewable during the time of service in the National Guard or until 20 years of service has been obtained which entitles you to a Veteran's License.

Veterans must have served on active duty during one of the periods of conflicts below:

WARTIME/CONFLICT PERIODS:

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR: April 21 1898, through July 4, 1902. The ending date for a veteran who served with the U.S. Military forces engaged in hostilities in the Moro Province is July 15, 1903.

MEXICAN BORDER: May 9, 1916 through April 5, 1917.

WORLD WAR I: April 6, 1917 through November 11, 1918. The period for a veteran who served with the U.S. Military forces in Russia would include April 6, 1917, through April 1, 1920.

WORLD WAR II: December 7, 1941 through December 31, 1946.

KOREA: June 27, 1950 through January 31, 1955.

LEBANON CONFLICT: July 1, 1958 through November 1, 1958.

VIETNAM CONFLICT: July 1, 1958 through August 4, 1964.

BERLIN CONFLICT: August 14, 1961 through June 1, 1963.

VIETNAM: August 5, 1964 through May 7, 1975.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC CONFLICT: April 28, 1965 through September 21, 1966.

GRENADA CONFLICT: October 23, 1983 through November 21, 1983.

PANAMA LIBERATION: December 30, 1989 through February 15, 1990.

SAUDI ARABIA/IRAQ/KUWAIT/PERSIAN GULF: August 2, 1990 - ending date unknown at this time.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

- * 1. Applicant must furnish proof that he or she resides in Georgia and must provide a valid Georgia residence address. The following items are acceptable:
 - Utility bill with valid Georgia residence address;
 - Bank statement with valid Georgia residence address;
 - Rental contracts and/or receipts with valid Georgia residence address;
 - Employer verification;
 - Georgia license issued to parent, guardian, or spouse.
- 2. Applicant must be 16 years old for Classes D and M; 18 years old for Classes A , B, and C; 15 years old for Class C instructional permit.

MINORS: *If you are under 18 years old, parental or guardian consent is necessary before issuance of the original license. Identification (and/or proof of guardianship) will be required of parents .*

- 3. Applicant must surrender all previous driver's licenses, identification cards, and instructional permits to the Examiner.
- 4. First time applicants for a Georgia license or permit must show some acceptable form of personal identification that includes full name, month, day and year of birth. After verification of full name and date of birth, documents will be returned immediately to the licensee. The following items are acceptable: **YOU MUST PROVIDE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

*** ALL DOCUMENTS MUST BE AN ORIGINAL OR A CERTIFIED COPY**

- * **Original birth certificate (State issued)**
- * **Certified copy of birth certificate (with seal)**
- * **Certificate of birth registration**
- * **Certified copy of court records (adoption, name changes or sex changes.)**
- * **Certified naturalization records**
- * **Immigration I.D. card**
- * **Valid Passport**

(U.S. citizens must furnish proof of citizenship. Non-U.S. citizens must present proper INS documentation.)

- 5. Documents presented must be either in English or translated into English by a translator approved by the Dept. of Motor Vehicle Safety. You may contact a Driver's License office in your area for a list of approved translators.
- 6. Applicant must successfully complete a driver examination, which is a test to determine their ability to operate a motor vehicle safely. The examination includes an eye test; a road signs test; a road rules test for desired class; and an actual driving test. A DS36 is required in Classes A and B.
- 7. All applicants for identification cards and license must be fingerprinted.
- 8. The Department may require a medical evaluation if an applicant has a mental or physical condition that could prevent the safe operation of a motor vehicle.

9. All applicants under 18 will be required to show (on a form prescribed by the DMVS) they have completed a course on alcohol and drugs before they are issued a driver's license. This course will be taught by an instructor authorized by the DMVS. For dates and times call 1-800-245-4410.
10. All applicants under the age of 18 must provide proof that either he/she is currently enrolled in school, has parent's permission to withdraw from school, or has received a GED, a high school diploma, or completed high school. Forms for school attendance or withdrawal are available from the local Driver License Office.
11. Applicants who have never been licensed by any other jurisdiction cannot receive an initial issuance of a class C or D license unless such person:
 - a. Has completed an approved driver education course in a licensed private or public driver training school and in addition, received a cumulative total of at least 20 hours of other supervised driving experience including at least six hours at night;
 - OR
 - b. Has completed a cumulative total of at least 40 hours of supervised driving experience including at least six hours at night.

The parent or guardian of an applicant under the age of 18 or the applicant if over the age of 18 must sign a verification form attesting to the above requirement.

LICENSE FEES (CASH ONLY, NO CHECKS)

Class	Valid	Fee
C, M	4 Years	\$15.00
A, B	4 Years	\$15.00
Honorary (Veterans)	4 Years	No Fee
National Guard	4 Years	No Fee
Inmate Certificate	4 Years	No Fee
Limited Permit	1 Year (non-renewable)	\$25.00
C - Instructional Permit	2 Years	\$10.00
A & B Instructional Permit	1 Year	\$10.00
M Instructional Permit	6 Months	\$10.00
A, B, C, or M (*Organ Donor)	4 Years	\$ 8.00
D (Provisional)	4 Years	\$10.00
Duplicate License	Time Remaining	\$ 5.00

**Donor must execute a Uniform Donor Card at the time of issuance to receive the fee reduction.*

WHERE TO GET A LICENSE AND RENEWALS

You can go to an examination station for your first Georgia driver's license and for any renewals or endorsements you wish to obtain. Driver's licenses are issued at Customer Service Centers with periodic visits to most county seats. You may renew your license as early as 150 days before your license expires. All driver's licenses, including veterans, active duty military personnel and dependent's, expire on the birthday of the license holder in the year indicated on the license as the date of expiration. Please refer to the front cover of this booklet for a list of Customer Service Centers. Renewal only offices are located throughout the state. Please refer to the back cover of this book for a list of renewal only offices. Renewals are also done by mail and internet. If you are eligible for these services you will receive a notice in the mail approximately 60 days before your license expiration with instructions.

Military personnel on active duty and full-time students outside of Georgia may request a renewal of their driver's license, if verified in the specified manner described by the Department of Motor Vehicle Safety and accompanied by the correct fee. The same privilege is also extended to a military person's spouse and any licensed dependents living with the person while on duty in a foreign domain or in a state other than Georgia. The renewal will be granted for no longer than a four year period at the end of which the license holders must appear for renewals.

EXPIRED LICENSE

If your Georgia driver's license has expired for two or more years you must pass a road sign test; a road rules test; an actual driving test; and an eye test to obtain a Class C license. Additional testing will be required to obtain a Class M, B, or A license. If you surrender an expired out-of-state license you will be required to pass a road sign test, a road rules test, an actual driving test, and an eye test.

REGARDING YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE

Carrying and Displaying Your License

Your driver's license must be in your possession when you drive, to be displayed to any police officer upon request.

Name and Address Change

If you change your address, you must report to the nearest exam station and apply for a new license, showing correct address, within 60 days. If you change your name by marriage or otherwise, you must also obtain a new license, showing correct name, within 60 days. A replacement license, valid for the current renewal period, will be issued once in any four-year period, free of charge. In order to change your name, you must present a certified copy of the marriage license or a certified copy of a court ordered name change. If you wish to hyphenate your name you must present a certified copy of the marriage license and a certified copy of the marriage license application stating the hyphenated name. Male applicants who wish to take the wife's name after marriage must satisfy this requirement.

Lost or Stolen License

If your license is lost or stolen, you must appear in person at a service center, with proof of identity, to receive another license. The appropriate fee will be required. If another license cannot be issued at that time, a temporary 30-day permit will be issued. If you request a license number change from the one that was lost or stolen, you must present a police report indicating the license/ID was reported missing or stolen.

Identification Card

A State of Georgia identification card may be obtained at any Customer Service Center. The cost of this card is \$10.00. See page 11 for proper identification that is required. You must be a Georgia resident.

ORGAN DONOR PROGRAM

If a person desires to become an Organ Donor, an Organ Donor Card will be furnished. Simply fill out and sign the Uniform Donor Card, which is a legal document when executed in the presence of two witnesses who also must sign. Please discuss your wishes with your family.

- Organ donation can occur only after every measure has been taken to save your life, and only after death has been legally and medically declared.
- Georgia law prohibits the physician who declares a patient dead from participating in the removal or transplantation of that patient's donated organs or tissues.
- There is no cost to the donor's family for any expenses related to organ tissue/eye donation. Also, there is no delay in funeral arrangements.
- Donation is consistent with the beliefs of all major religions.
- Georgia law requires hospitals to notify an organ/tissue/eye recovery center when a donation is possible.
- Recipients are selected by urgency of need, compatibility of blood type, body size, and tissue type, regardless of sex, race or creed.

Chapter 2 Driver's License (Parts 1, 2, & 3 are included in all classes)

Part 1 – The Vision Test

Your eyes will be tested by means of a mechanical device. The minimum acceptable vision is 20/60 in one eye, with or without corrective lenses, and a field of vision of at least 140 degrees.

Part 2 – The Road Sign Test

A set of questions on the meaning of standard highway signs will be given. You will be asked to identify certain signs, signals and markers. 15 out of 20 correct answers are necessary to pass.

Part 3 – The Road Rules Test

The road rules test consists of a set of questions about driver responsibility, knowledge of laws and safe driving practices, applicable to the class of license applied for. To pass the test, the applicants must answer at least 15 out of 20 questions correctly.

The road rules tests are available in some non-English languages, but all drivers must show ability to read and understand simple English such as is used in highway traffic and directional signs. Road signs and actual driving test must be taken in English.

Part 4 – The Driving Test (Class C or D)

All road test vehicles must be covered by liability insurance, pass a safety inspection, and if the vehicle is not equipped with turn signals, you must know your hand signals.

On the driving test you will be expected to do all or part of the following:

1. **Parallel Parking:** Park midway between two standards so that your car is not more than 18 inches from the curb.
2. **Quick Stops:** Drive at a speed of 20 miles per hour and make a quick, safe stop when the examiner instructs you.
3. **Backing:** Back your car for a distance of about 50 feet, at a slow rate of speed, as straight and as smoothly as possible. Turn your head and look back at all times while backing.

4. **Stopping for Signs or Traffic Signals:** Give the proper hand or brake signal; approach in the proper lane; stop before reaching a pedestrian crosswalk; and remain stopped until you may move safely through.
5. **Turning Around:** Turn your car in a narrow space.
6. **Use of Clutch:** If your car has a standard transmission, you must shift smoothly and correctly.
7. **Approaching Corners:** You must be in proper lane and look in both directions.
8. **Yielding Right-of-Way:** Always yield right-of-way to pedestrians, motor vehicles, bicyclists or anyone else who moves into the intersection before you.
9. **Turning:** Get into the proper lane and give signal an adequate distance before reaching the turn.
10. **Passing:** Always look ahead and behind to make sure you can safely pass without interfering with other traffic.
11. **Following:** Do not drive too closely behind other cars. Watch the car ahead of you; when it passes some reference point, such as a telephone pole, then count “one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two.” If you pass the same spot before you are through counting, you are following too closely.
12. **Posture:** Keep both hands on the steering wheel. Do not rest your elbow on the window and do not attempt to carry on a conversation with the Examiner because they will be busy giving instructions and recording your score.

At the end of the test, the license examiner will gladly show you your score sheet and will provide you ample opportunity to discuss the test if you so desire. The applicant must achieve a minimum score of 75% to pass.

Part 4 – The Driving Test (Class M)

You must furnish a motorcycle for the test and pass a safety inspection of the motorcycle by the license examiner before the driving test is given.

Motorcycle operator's testing information is covered in the Motorcycle Operator's Manual. For more information, you may contact the Motorcycle Safety Program at (404) 669-2950.

Part 5 – Class A & B Non-Commercial

There is no driving test for Classes A & B Non-Commercial; however, the applicant must present an affidavit of skill (DS-36), establishing their ability to operate the vehicles within the particular class, and pass a knowledge test for that particular class.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR ALL CLASSES

Health: You must answer questions that refer to your health. You will be asked if you are now, or have ever had, any physical or mental disability or disease which could interfere with safe driving. If you have, you should see your physician before going to the examination station. If your physician decides that you are now well enough to drive safely, ask for a statement to give to the license examiner. This visit to the doctor may save you the trouble of making an unnecessary trip to the Customer Service Center.

If you pass the test: Your picture will be taken and you must pay a required fee. You may be given a temporary license for 45 days or until the Department mails your permanent license. If for any reason you do not receive your driver's license in 45 days, contact your local examiner's office.

Applicants who have failed: If you fail any part of the driving examination, and it is your:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| First Failure | — You must wait until the next day before retaking the driving examination that you failed earlier. |
| Second Failure | — You must wait 7 days before retaking the driving examination that you failed earlier. |
| Third or Subsequent Failure - | You must wait 30 days before retaking the entire driving examination again. |

Inclement Weather: The driving test **will not** be given when the streets are slippery or dangerous.

CHAPTER 3

Signs, Signals and Markings

It is extremely important to obey signs and signals. To obey them you must be able to recognize them and understand what they mean.

Since research has shown that people react to symbols more quickly than words, Georgia has included signs which will communicate with symbols rather than words, in an effort to help drivers recognize and react to signs.

All drivers, including bicyclists, must obey official highway signs and traffic control signals unless otherwise directed by a police officer.

Shapes of Signs

There are seven basic shapes of signs with each shape having a different meaning. Know signs by their shapes and color so that you will know what to do at a distance.



An Octagon (eight-sided edge) always means stop. When you come to it, you must make a complete stop at a marked stop line. If there is no stop line, stop before entering crosswalk on your side of the intersection. If there is no crosswalk, stop at a point from which you can best see oncoming traffic. You must not start again until you yield the right-of-way to pedestrians or closely approaching traffic. If it is a four-way stop, wait your turn. In any case, you must wait until a safe interval occurs.



Triangle signs mean yield. You must slow down to a speed that is reasonable for existing conditions and stop if necessary. If you must stop, do so at a marked stop line, if it exists. After slowing or stopping, you must yield the right-of-way to other vehicles in the intersection or approaching closely on another roadway or auxiliary road leading into a major highway.



Round signs mean railroad crossing. This sign is posted a few hundred feet in front of the tracks and tells you to look, listen and slow down, because you may have to stop. Roll down the car window and listen carefully, for if the wind is blowing in the wrong direction, you may not hear the train. If the train is approaching, stop! Don't try to figure time and distance. You'll never have another chance if you figure incorrectly. Passing is prohibited at a railroad crossing.



Diamond shaped signs warn of existing or possible hazards on roadways or adjacent areas. They are yellow with black letters or symbols. Pay attention to these signs! They tell you what to expect ahead.



Pentagon shaped signs signify school zone and school crossing. When used, they will be erected not less than 150 feet nor more than 700 feet in advance of the school grounds or school crossing. (Warning signs can sometimes be florescent green in color)



Horizontal Rectangular signs are generally used for guide lines. They show location, direction or other special information.



Vertical Rectangular signs are generally used for regulatory signs, which tell you what you must do. You must obey them in the same manner as traffic laws.

There are three official classifications of signs: Regulatory, Warning, and Guide.

REGULATORY SIGNS

Regulatory signs tell the driver what they must do. Drivers, including those on bicycles, must obey them in the same manner as traffic laws. Remember, a red circle with a red slash from upper left to lower right means “No”. The picture within the circle shows what is prohibited.



Motorist is approaching one-way highway or ramp.



This marks a one-way roadway with traffic coming against you. You must not enter the one-way at this point.



You may travel only in the direction of the arrow.



You cannot turn around to go in the opposite direction at this intersection.



You are approaching an area where a reduced speed limit has been established.



You cannot make a right turn at this intersection.



Trucks are prohibited from entering this roadway.



Bicycles are prohibited from entering this roadway.



Traffic is required to keep to the right of medians or obstructions.



55 miles per hour is the top speed permitted in this area.



After coming to a complete stop, a right turn is permitted but not at an intersection with this sign posted.



When riding on a two-way four lane roadway, slower traffic should travel in the right (outside) lane.



You are approaching a school zone where a reduced speed limit is in effect when yellow lights are flashing.

WARNING SIGNS

Warning signs are black and yellow. (Warning signs can also be fluorescent green in color.) They alert you to conditions which are immediately ahead, and tell you what to look for. There may be road hazards, changes in direction or some other situation which will require action on your part.



Sharp turn to the right.



Curve to the right.



Sharp turn to the right and then sharp turn to the left.



Winding road ahead



Another road crosses the highway ahead.



Side road enters highway ahead.



Side road enters highway ahead at angle.



This sign warns there is no road straight ahead. Slow down and prepare to yield or stop before turning right or left.



This sign is on the left side of the highway and marks the beginning of a no passing zone. The pass must be completed before reaching this sign.



There is a stop sign ahead. Begin to slow down at this sign.



There is a yield sign ahead. Slow down and prepare to stop if necessary.



Room for only two lanes of traffic. Approach with caution.



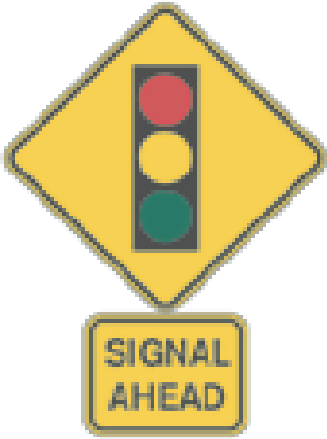
There is a dip in the roadway. Slow down!



There is a bump in the road ahead. Slow down!



Shoulder of the road is soft. Drive off road only for emergency.



Warning of traffic signals at intersection ahead. Slow down!



Approaching a divided highway. Keep to the right.



Divided highway ends. Get into the proper lane.



Warning that you are leaving a separated one-way highway and will soon be driving on two-way highway.



Number of lanes reduced ahead.



Approaching a low underpass. Don't enter if your load exceeds maximum height of sign.



Traffic merging right just ahead.



Steep hill ahead. Slow down and be ready to shift to lower gear to control speed and save brakes.



Roadway slippery when wet, first half-hour of rain most hazardous.



These signs alert drivers in advance of areas where animals, people and vehicles may be crossing.



CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE WARNING SIGNS

Warning signs for construction and maintenance projects are used to alert you to dangers ahead and give you enough time in which to adjust your speed accordingly. These signs are orange and black.



SERVICE SIGNS

As you travel along Georgia’s highways, the following blue and white signs will give advance notice of service facilities located along the route.



Road Side Park
and Rest Area

GUIDE SIGNS

Guide signs are your best friend when you are driving, especially if you are away from home. They tell you where you are, what road you are on, and how to get to where you wish to go. Many guide signs are rectangular, but some have other shapes as shown for interstate signs. There are several different kinds of guide signs — route markers, information, destination, distance, and location signs. Here are some examples:





Milepost markers are placed each mile along the edge of the roadway from one end of the state to the other. Zero always starts at the south or west borders where route begins.

Intersection U.S. Route 47 & Ga 38. These roads are going to cross or meet the highway you are using.



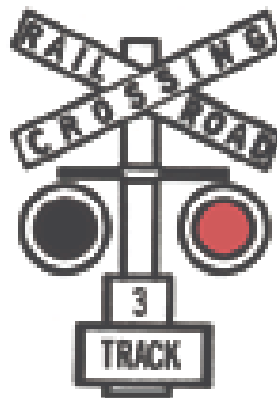
The numbers on these signs designate specific exits.



Look for this sign when you want to park. It points to a nearby public parking area.



This sign is used to mark an officially designated bicycle trail. Watch for cyclists if you are on this road.



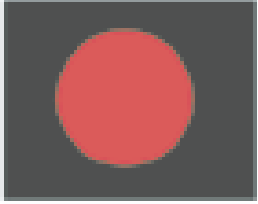
The crossbuck is placed at all railroad crossings. Yield to any approaching trains. Slow down, look and listen before crossing. A sign below the crossbuck indicates the number of tracks. A complete stop is required when a red light is flashing.



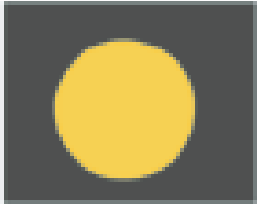
Caution — a vehicle displaying this emblem is a slow moving vehicle. A slow moving vehicle is defined as any vehicle moving less than 25 miles per hour. They are required by law to display this emblem.

TRAFFIC SIGNALS

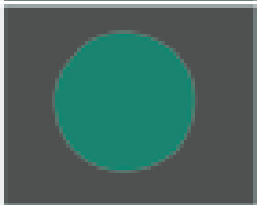
Traffic signals are placed at intersections to control the orderly movement of traffic and to prevent accidents. Drivers (including bicyclists) and pedestrians must obey these signals except when an officer is directing traffic. In the event that a traffic signal is inoperable at an intersection then all traffic will stop for such intersection in the same manner as if a stop sign was posted.



A red light means you must make a complete stop before entering the crosswalk or intersection and wait until the light turns to green before proceeding.



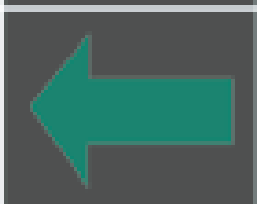
A yellow light warns the light is changing from green to red. Slow down and prepare to stop.



A green light means you may proceed if it is safe to do so after yielding to pedestrians and vehicles within the intersection.



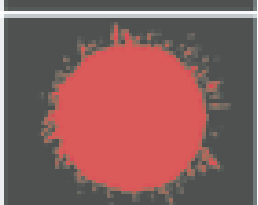
A green arrow means you may proceed carefully only in the direction the arrow is pointing after yielding to pedestrians and vehicles within the intersection. In this case you may go straight ahead only.



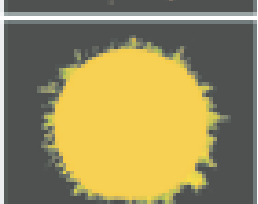
A green arrow, in this case, means you may turn in the direction of the arrow.



A yellow arrow may appear after a green arrow and warns you to clear the intersection.

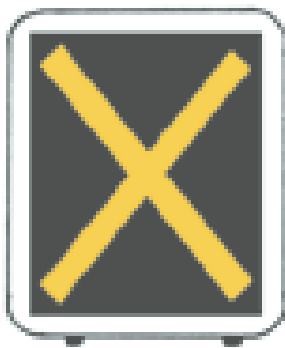
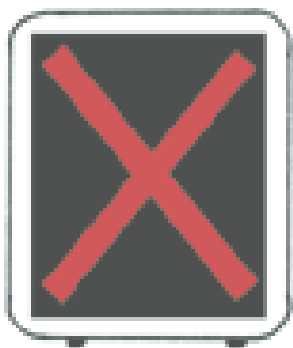


A red flashing light means you must stop completely then proceed with caution.



A yellow flashing light means you must slow down and exercise caution before proceeding through the intersection.

LANE CONTROL SIGNALS



"Steady" — clear the lane
"Flashing" — left turn permitted.

Travel in lane

OVERHEAD LANE SIGNS



PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS

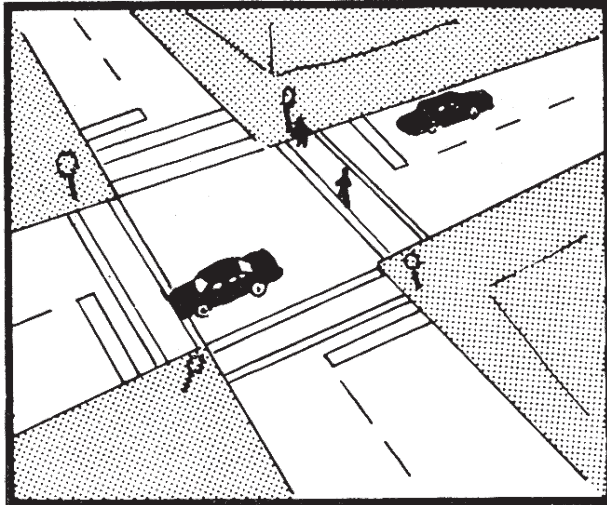


Leave the curb to cross street



"Flashing" do not leave curb but complete crossing



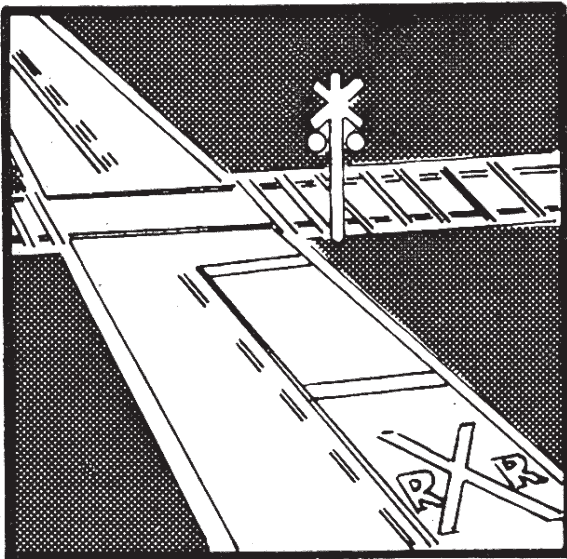


Stop Lines

Stop lines are white lines painted across the pavement at intersections indicating the exact place to stop. In urban areas the line is usually located about four feet before the crosswalk. Drivers must come to a complete stop at the stop line, when present, not at the stop sign or traffic signal.

Crosswalk Lines

These white lines are painted across, or partially across the pavement. When pedestrians are in the crosswalks, they have the right-of-way over motor vehicles. Crosswalks are sometimes in the middle of a block in residential areas, and in some cases, a pedestrian crossing signal is located at the white line.



Railroad Crossings and Crossbucks

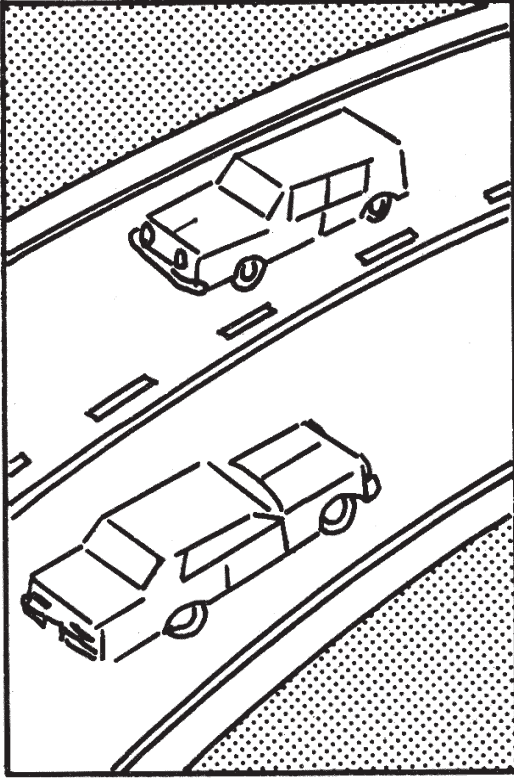
In the front of railroad crossings, the pavement is sometimes marked with a large X and two RR's. This is known as a crossbuck. At railroad crossings a yellow line is always placed on the right side of the center line to prevent passing. The crossing is sometimes equipped with control arms and/or emergency lights, to warn drivers of approaching trains. The driver of the vehicle must stop if warning signals say a train is approaching.

Georgia Code Section 40-6-96: Pedestrians Walking On or Along Roadway.

- (f) No pedestrians shall pass through, around, over, or under any crossing gate or barrier at a railroad grade crossing or bridge while such gate or barrier is closed or is being opened or closed.

PAVEMENT MARKINGS

Pavement markings, like highway signs, are used to warn and direct drivers to regulate traffic. As with highway signs, pavement markings are also being changed to meet U.S. Department of Transportation requirements. As old markings wear out, they will be repainted as described below.



Center Lines

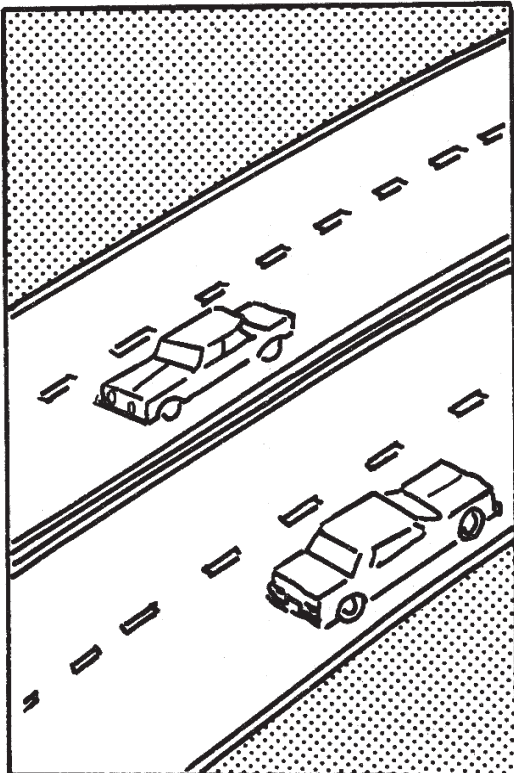
These are used to separate traffic moving in opposite directions on paved roadways. Broken yellow lines are used when there are only two lanes.

No Passing Lines

These are the single, solid yellow lines on two-lane roads which indicate zones where passing is prohibited. These single, solid yellow lines will be located on the right of the broken yellow line when they apply to you.

Edgelines

These are the solid white lines along the side of the pavement. They serve as safety guides, especially at night when it is difficult to see the edge of the road. A yellow edge line may be used on the left side to warn of narrow or raised medians.



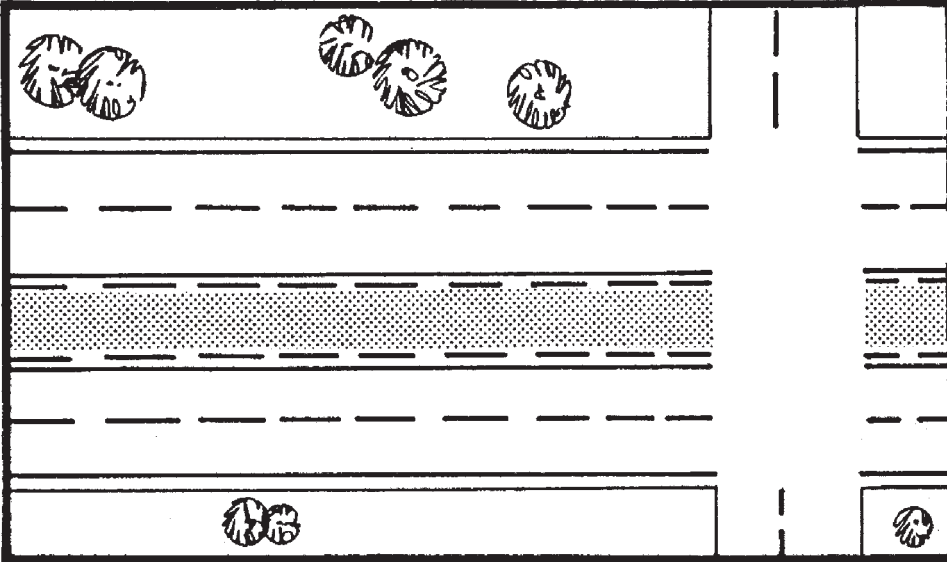
Lane Lines

These are the white dashes which divide streets and highways having more than one lane for traffic moving in the same direction.

When there are four or more lanes with traffic moving in opposite directions, two solid yellow lines mark the center of the roadway. You may cross these lines only to make a left turn into or from an alley, private road, driveway, or other street.

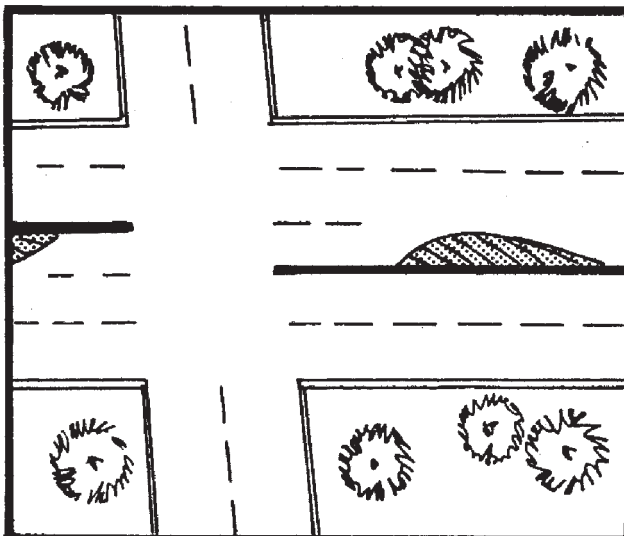
TURN LANES

This lane, solid yellow and broken yellow, is in the center of streets and highways to make left turns. A vehicle desiring to turn left should proceed to the turn lane just prior to making left turn. Georgia law prohibits the use of this lane for any purpose other than making a left turn. You may enter this lane no more than 300 feet from the location of the left turn.



TRAFFIC STRIPING

These markings, diagonal yellow lines, are on streets and highways indicating that the road is narrowing or there is an obstruction on the roadway. The area is similar to a triangle with solid yellow diagonal lines within the outside lines. Always keep to right of markings.



Chapter 4

Traffic Laws

Traffic laws are the rules that govern your privilege to drive and if you do not follow them explicitly you will be penalized, fined, or potentially lose your privilege to drive. It is especially important to remember, however, that traffic laws exist for your own protection. If you disobey them, you run the risk of injuring yourself or someone else. To obey the laws, you must first know and understand them. Traffic laws are necessary to provide for the orderly movement of vehicles and pedestrians, and the prevention of accidents.

Here are three general traffic laws you should know.

1. It is a misdemeanor for any person to disregard a traffic law or fail to do something required by the traffic laws of this State.
2. Everyone must obey the orders of a law enforcement officer or firefighter who is directing traffic.
3. It is against the law to drive onto a officially closed roadway or onto a section of highway before it has been officially opened.

LAWS GOVERNING RIGHT-OF-WAY

To be a safe driver, whether you are in a vehicle or on a bicycle, you must understand that, in every situation, the right-of-way is something which is to be given, not taken. If the other driver is not following the rules, let them have the right-of-way, even if it really belongs to you; otherwise, you will be gambling with the lives of yourself and your passengers.

Drivers must yield to other drivers:

1. At any intersection where there is a stop sign, you may proceed only after stopping and yielding the right-of-way to any other vehicle either in the intersection, or so close to it as to make it dangerous.
2. At intersections where there are no stop signs, yield signs or traffic signals, the driver of the vehicle on the left must yield to the driver of the vehicle on the right, if they approach or enter the intersection from different roadways at about the same time. (This usually occurs during power outages.)
3. At a four-way stop intersection, when more than one driver reaches it at almost the same time, the first one to stop should be the first to go, if safe to do so, and others should take their turns. There are three other things to remember:
 - a. Don't delay traffic behind you – take your turn when it comes.
 - b. If another driver tries to take your turn, let them proceed. It might prevent an accident.
 - c. Care, courtesy and common sense should govern your actions.

4. When making a left turn at an intersection, alley or driveway, yield the right-of-way to all traffic from the opposite direction, then proceed when safe.
5. When approaching a yield sign, slow down to a speed reasonable for existing conditions, and if it is necessary to stop for the purpose of safety, follow the procedure outlined for stop signs.
6. When approaching a merging traffic sign, adjust your speed and vehicle position in order to merge into a lane safely.
7. At intersections, even after getting a green light, wait until all cross traffic has safely cleared the intersection.
8. If you are about to enter or cross a highway from an alley, private road or highway, you must stop, and yield the right-of-way to all other vehicles on the street or highway before proceeding.
9. If police or authorized emergency vehicles, which utilize blue or red lights, are using either/both sirens and lights, you must pull over onto the right-hand shoulder and stop, if possible, until the emergency vehicle has passed. Intersections must not be blocked. In all cases pull to the right and stop!

NOTE: All police vehicles are required to use blue emergency lights. All ambulances, fire trucks, and certain public utility vehicles are required to use red emergency lights. All wreckers and other emergency vehicles are required to use amber emergency lights.

10. Yield to all highway maintenance vehicles and workers in a construction zone.
11. It is permissible to make a right turn on red at an intersection controlled by a traffic control light after a complete stop, unless a sign posted at that intersection does not allow turning.
12. It is permissible to make a left turn on a red signal from the left-hand lane of a one way street only onto a one way street on which the traffic moves toward the driver's left. You must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and other traffic proceeding as directed by the signal at such intersection.
13. You must stop when approaching a stopped school bus that has the stop sign out and the flashing lights on, for the purpose of loading or unloading passengers; and you shall not proceed until the school bus resumes motion. On a highway divided by a median, cars coming from the opposite direction are not required to stop. Remember to use caution. Children can be unpredictable.

Drivers must yield to pedestrians:

1. The driver of a vehicle shall stop and remain stopped to allow a pedestrian to cross the roadway within a crosswalk when the pedestrian is upon the half of the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling, or when the pedestrian is approaching and is within one lane of the half of the roadway on which the vehicle is traveling or onto which it is turning. For the purposes of this subsection, "half of the roadway" means all traffic lanes carrying traffic in one direction of travel.
2. When making a left or right turn at any intersection.
3. At stop signs, after coming to a complete stop and before proceeding.
4. At traffic signals, even when the light is green, if pedestrians are still in crosswalk.
5. When entering a street or highway from an alley, driveway, or private road.
6. When approaching a blind person who is crossing a street or highway if they are carrying a white cane or being guided by a dog.

PASSING

How To Pass On A Two-lane Road

1. Check well ahead for "No passing zone" and oncoming cars. Be sure you have time and space enough to overtake the vehicle ahead and return to the right lane before an approaching vehicle comes within 200 feet of you.
2. Stay well back from the car ahead so you can see ahead. Check rearview and side mirrors, also turn your head and look back to check your "blind spot". Someone may be passing you. Signal left.
3. Tap your horn when necessary to alert the driver ahead.
4. Pass on the left and do not return to the right lane until safely clear of the overtaken vehicle. Wait until you can see the car you have just passed in your rearview mirror.
5. Signal right turn before returning to the right lane. Be sure to turn your signal off.

Passing On The Right

You may pass on the right of another vehicle which is making or about to make a left turn. You may also pass on the right when traveling on a multi-lane highway carrying two or more lanes of traffic in the same direction.

When Someone Passes You

When a driver behind you is overtaking your vehicle, be on your guard so that you may protect yourself from any unsafe actions by the other driver. It's a good idea to slow down just a little to make passing you easier. Remember that it is unlawful to increase your speed until you have been completely passed by the overtaking vehicle.

Passing Bicyclists

Bicyclists may be using the roads at any time. Please pass them with caution, treating them as you would any other vehicle you wish to pass on a two-lane road. Because bicyclists do not always go very well in a straight line, allow extra width when passing.

Passing is prohibited on two-lane roads:

1. In areas marked by a solid yellow line on the right of the center line, or a "Do Not Pass" Sign, or double yellow lines.
2. Within 100 feet of a railroad crossing.
3. Within 100 feet of a bridge, viaduct or tunnel.
4. When a car approaching from the opposite direction makes passing unsafe.
5. On a hill or curve where it is not possible to see oncoming vehicles which might be close enough to be a hazard.
6. Within 100 feet of an intersection.
7. On the shoulder of the road.
8. When a school bus is stopped to load or unload passengers.

You must always drive on the right half of the roadway except:

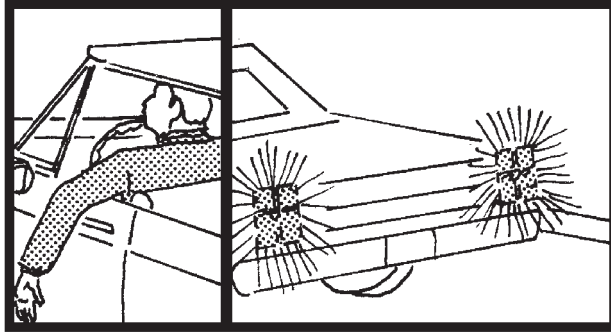
1. When overtaking and passing another vehicle going in the same direction.
2. When an obstruction makes it necessary to drive on the left of the center line, but only after yielding to oncoming traffic.
3. Upon a roadway with two or more marked lanes in the same direction.
4. Upon a roadway restricted to one way traffic. Upon a multi-lane, two way highway you must never drive to the left of the center line except when authorized to do so by the traffic control signals or signs or when making a left turn into an alley, private road or driveway.

Weaving

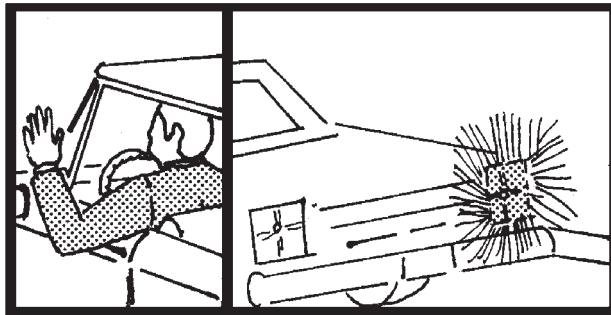
It is unlawful to weave from one lane of traffic to another in order to move faster than the flow of traffic. A motorist may change lanes on a multi-lane highway and pass slower moving vehicles only when it is safe to do so. A driver's signaling to change lanes should be clearly indicated so as to warn the following vehicles of the movement.

TURN SIGNALS

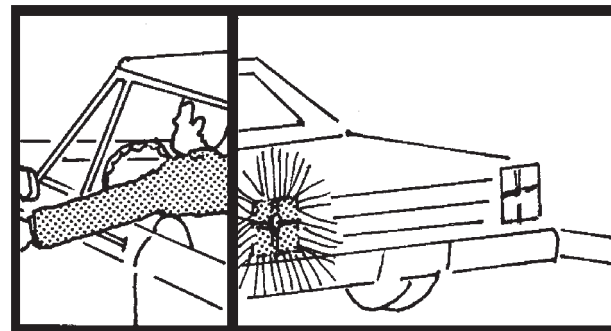
Turn movements by motor vehicles are regulated by law, and failure to observe or comply is a violation. Drivers must know and understand the law in order to turn safely and avoid accidents.



STOP



RIGHT TURN



LEFT TURN

Turn signals must be given whenever a turn is made to the right or the left. You must give a continuous turn signal for an adequate distance to alert other drivers before turning.

Illegal Signals: It is against the law to flash turn signals as a courtesy or “do pass” signals to other drivers in the rear.

How To Make A Right Turn

Give a right turn signal at the proper time and approach the intersection in the right-hand lane, staying close to the curb. Make the turn in such a way as to end up in the right-hand lane of the street into which you turned. Do not make a wide swing into another lane of traffic.

How To Make A Left Turn

Move into the farthest left lane going in your direction, give the left turn signal, keeping the wheels straight at the intersection until the turn is made, and yield the right-of-way to all vehicles which are approaching from the opposite direction. After yielding and when safe to do so, proceed with your turn.

U-Turns

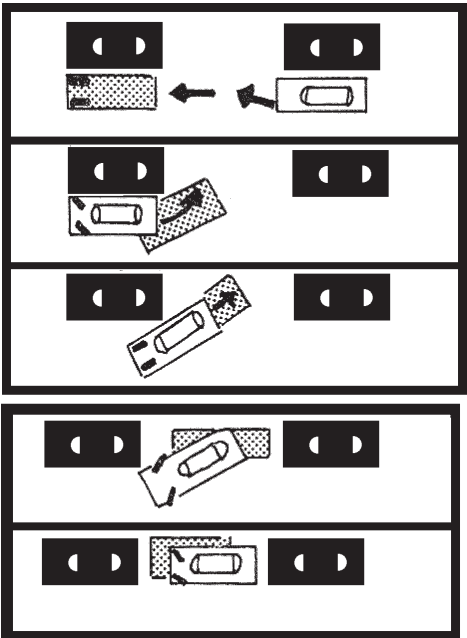
Do not make a “U” turn on a curve or near the top of a hill if you cannot be seen by other drivers approaching from either direction.

PARKING

Make it a practice to never leave your vehicle until you have stopped the motor, put the gear in low or reverse or park positions, set the parking brake, and removed the keys.

Steps to Parallel Parking

- 1. Stop even with car ahead and about 2 feet away from it.
- 2. Turn wheels sharp right and back slowly toward car behind.
- 3. As your front door passes the back bumper of the car ahead, quickly straighten the wheels and continue to back straight.
- 4. When clear of car ahead, turn wheels sharp left and back slowly to car behind.
- 5. Turn wheels sharp right and pull toward center of parking space.
- 6. Always give appropriate signal.



Backing Up

1. Before backing, you should look to the front, sides and rear, and continue to look to the rear while backing. Do not depend on your mirror. You should turn your head and look over your right shoulder while backing. In residential areas be especially careful to watch out for children. It's a good idea to always check behind the vehicle before backing.
2. For buses and large vehicles, the driver should use all mirrors and utilize a reliable person to observe and direct while backing the vehicles.

You may not stop, stand, or park:

1. On the street side of any parked vehicle.
2. On a sidewalk.
3. Within an intersection.
4. On a crosswalk.
5. Between a safety zone and the adjacent curb.
6. Alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when stopping, standing, or parking would obstruct traffic.
7. Upon a bridge or overpass, or within a tunnel, underpass or subway.
8. On any railroad tracks.
9. On a controlled access highway.
10. At any place marked by a no-parking sign.

You may not stop, stand, or park except momentarily to pick up or dropoff passengers:

1. In front of a public or private driveway.
2. Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant.
3. Within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection.
4. Within 30 feet of a stop sign, yield sign, or traffic control signal.
5. Within 20 feet of a fire station driveway.
6. Within 50 feet of a railroad crossing.
7. At any place where official signs prohibit standing.

It is against the law to park on a highway. If the vehicle is disabled, you should make every practical effort to park off the highway leaving free passage and a clear view of your vehicle for 200 feet in each direction.

MAXIMUM SPEED LIMITS

(Unless otherwise posted)

All vehicles	55
Rural interstate when posted.	70
Urban interstate when posted	65

The speed limit for any business or residence district is 30 miles per hour maximum unless otherwise posted.

Driving Too Slowly

While driving too fast is very dangerous, driving too slowly on certain highways can also be dangerous. When there are two or more lanes for traffic moving in the same direction, slower vehicles should use the right hand lane except when passing or making a left turn. In any case, you must not drive slower than the minimum speed limit or so slow as to interfere with the normal flow of traffic.

School Buses

You must stop when overtaking or meeting a stopped school bus, except where highways are separated in the center by median strips; then only vehicles following in the same direction must stop. Warning will be given in advance by the flashing red or amber lights on the front and rear of the bus. It is not necessary to stop for a school bus on a controlled access highway if the bus is in a loading zone where pedestrians are not permitted to cross. After stopping, you may proceed only when the bus resumes motion or when the flashing lights turn off.

Railroad Crossings

You must always stop within 50 feet but not less than 15 feet from the nearest rail when:

1. The signal is flashing.
2. The crossing gates are lowered.
3. A flagman is giving a signal.
4. A train is approaching so closely as to create an immediate hazard.
5. A train gives a warning signal and is an immediate hazard due to its speed or nearness to the crossing.
6. A stop sign is posted.

Under no circumstances should a motorist drive through, around or under any crossing gate while the gate is closed. After stopping, remain stopped until all tracks have been cleared and it is safe to proceed.

Highway Work Zones

In order to minimize inconvenience, most road work in Georgia is done while the road is still open to traffic. Drivers and passengers are at higher risk in a work zone, as are the workers who are often only inches from passing vehicles. Over half of all fatal injuries to road workers are caused by being struck by a motor vehicle, and a third of these by vehicles intruding into the work space. The Georgia Department of Transportation alone has experienced 53 workers' deaths in work zones between 1972 and 2002.

Work Zones

Highway work zones are defined as portions of a highway or street where construction, reconstruction, or maintenance work is being done to the road, its shoulders, or any other items related to the roadway. This definition also includes mobile work such as underground and overhead utility maintenance, snow removal, and land surveying activities.



Highway work zones are set up according to the type of road and the work to be done on the road. Signing, roadway markings, and flaggers are used to direct drivers safely through work zones or carefully marked detours. Motorists are responsible for knowing how to read and react to these directions. Paying attention, and driving cautiously and courteously are the most important steps to preventing accidents while driving through a work zone. Watch for the color orange. It means road work.



Obey the Signs

All warning signs in work zones have an orange background and black letters or symbols. They are used with other traffic control devices or flaggers to help direct traffic safely through work areas and to protect highway workers.

Reduce Your Speed

One of the best responses to the presence of road work is to reduce your speed to increase your margin of safety. In many work zone situations, normal speed limits are reduced for safety reasons. If there are no reduced speed limits posted, drivers should obey the normal posted speed limit. Reducing speed and adjustments in your lane position can reduce the risk of an accident or injury.

Advisory speed limits are used to identify safe speeds for specific conditions within a work zone. These black and orange signs are always used with warning signs. Work zone speed limits are short term regulatory speed limits that are established for worker safety due to traffic in adjacent lanes. These speed limits are marked with standard black and white speed limit signs. Motorists who disobey regulatory speed limits in a work zone may be found guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature and will be punished by a fine of not less than \$100.00 nor more than \$2,000.00, or by imprisonment for a term not to exceed 12 months, or both.



Obey Flaggers

Flaggers are used to direct traffic through and around work zones. In a work zone, a flagger has the same authority as a regulatory sign, so you can be cited for disobeying the flagger's directions.

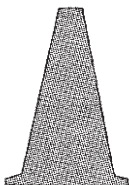


Yield to Amber Lights in Work Zones

Work vehicles and heavy equipment will typically have flashing or revolving amber lights. The driver of a vehicle must yield the right-of-way to these vehicles. Reduce your speed as you approach any work zone where vehicles have amber lights displayed.

Adjust Your Lane Position

Travel lanes are likely to be closed in work zones and lane patterns changed as the work progresses. When lanes are closed or narrowed and workers are working near traffic, you should change lanes or just move away in your lane to give added protection for you and the workers along the roadway. Road workers will do their best to avoid any conflict with drivers, but the job often requires that the work be close to your lane of travel. Reduced speed and adjustments in your lane position can reduce the risk of accident or injury.



Yield to Mobile Work Vehicles

Various road work can be performed without subjecting motorists to closed travel lanes. Pavement maintenance, debris removal, paint striping, utility work, and snow removal are examples of work accomplished while moving in traffic. Vehicles used in performing this type work will have flashing amber lights and may have flashing arrows directing traffic to merge left or right. The vehicles may also display signs for the purpose of directing traffic or indicating hazardous conditions. These vehicles usually work at very slow speeds, such as 5 MPH, and may even require stopping in the roadway. For your safety and the safety of others - slow down, yield to the work in progress, and follow any directions displayed by the work vehicles.



Driving Tips

When you travel through a work zone, remember these four tips:

- 1. Reduce your speed.**
- 2. Adjust your lane position away from workers.**
- 3. Prepare for the unexpected!**
- 4. Watch for speed limit signs. Fines are doubled in most work zones.**

OTHER LAWS

Controlled-Access Roadways

You are prohibited from entering or leaving any controlled-access (interstate) roadway at unauthorized entrances or exits. Certain types of vehicles may be prohibited on controlled-access roadways if signs are posted to this effect. Backing up is prohibited on controlled-access roadways.

Coasting

The driver of any motor vehicle, when traveling down a hill, must not coast with the gears or transmission of the vehicle in neutral.

Driving While Intoxicated

Any person who is under the influence of alcohol or any other drug which makes the person unable to drive safely is prohibited from driving or being in physical control of any kind of vehicle. A person, 21 or more years of age, is considered "*Under the Influence of Intoxicants*" when 0.08gm or more by alcohol weight is present in the blood. A person, under 21 years of age, is considered "*Under the Influence of Intoxicants*" when 0.02gm or more by alcohol weight is present in the blood. Penalties for driving under the influence of intoxicants are severe, with fines up to \$1000 and jail sentences up to 12 months, and mandatory suspension of your driving privileges.

Reckless Driving

Reckless driving is defined as driving any vehicle in reckless disregard for the safety of person or property. Penalties for reckless driving include fines up to \$1000, imprisonment up to 6 months, and suspension of your license.

Racing

When two or more people compete or race on any street or highway, when one of the motor vehicles is beside or to the rear of that of a competing driver, and one driver tries to prevent the passing or overtaking of the competing driver by acceleration or maneuver, or when one or more persons compete in a race against time, they are considered to be drag racing. In Georgia it is unlawful to drag race. The penalties for committing this violation may include imprisonment, a fine, and the suspension of your driving privilege.

Aggressive Driving

A person commits the offense of aggressive driving when he or she operates any motor vehicle with the intent to annoy, harass, molest, intimidate, injure, or obstruct another person. A conviction of aggressive driving will be a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature.

Following Emergency Vehicles

The driver of any vehicle, other than one on official business, must not follow any fire fighting apparatus traveling in response to a fire alarm, or other emergency vehicles, closer than **200 feet**, or drive into or park any vehicle within **500 feet** of any fire apparatus stopped in answer to a fire alarm.

Trucks and Vehicles Pulling Trailers

When traveling upon a roadway outside of a business or residential district, trucks and vehicles pulling trailers must leave sufficient space between themselves and other vehicles of the same kind, so that an overtaking vehicle can enter and occupy the space without danger.

Median Strip

It is unlawful to drive across a dividing section, barrier, or unpaved strip which separates two roadways at any point other than an authorized opening or crossover.

Impaired Hearing

It is unlawful to operate a motor vehicle while wearing a headphone, headset, or any other device which would impair the driver's ability to hear. Also, the driver must not wear anything which would obstruct his vision while driving a motor vehicle.

Obstructing the Driver's View

If a vehicle is overloaded with passengers or freight, so as to obstruct the view of the driver or interfere with the mechanical operation, it cannot be legally driven. Passengers must not ride in a position that interferes with the driver's view or his control of the vehicle.

Open Doors

Opening the doors of a vehicle on the side on which traffic is moving is prohibited unless it is safe to do so and unless it can be done without interfering with the movement of other traffic.

One Way

Under no circumstances may a vehicle be driven contrary to the direction posted on a one-way street or highway, except in situations where police vehicles or authorized emergency vehicles find it necessary to do so.

Riding in Trailers

Riding in a house trailer, or any other vehicular drawn trailer, is prohibited while it is being moved upon a street or highway. There is a potential danger of injury to occupants within a trailer if it should accidentally become unhitched from the towing vehicle.

Stopping

When stopping or slowing down suddenly, the proper hand, arm, or brake operated stop signal must be given.

Use Headlights Properly

You should dim (lower) your headlights when you are:

1. Within 500 feet of an approaching vehicle so as not to blind the driver.
2. When following closely (within 200 feet) behind another vehicle.
3. When driving on lighted roads.
4. When driving in rain, fog, snow, or smoke.
5. When vision is reduced to less than 200 feet.

Use bright lights only when driving in the open country, when other cars are not nearby. Even with the upper beam, speed must be slower than by day.

You must use your headlights between one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise; at any time when it is raining; or when visibility is limited.

Night Driving

Because of decreased vision at night and the glare of oncoming headlights, night driving is more demanding and requires greater concentration than daytime driving. Unfamiliar roads and unexpected situations are more likely to cause trouble. You can help ensure safe driving in several ways.

1. Make sure your headlights are working properly and the lens is kept clean. Periodically have them checked for correct aim.
2. Don't overdrive your headlights. Keep your speed within the range at which you can see the pavement ahead clearly enough to be able to make an emergency stop.
3. Slow down when meeting another vehicle or when nearing a curve if you are driving at or near the maximum posted speed limit.
4. Use the edgeline as a guide. If there is no edgeline, use the centerline to guide yourself.
5. Keep your windshield clean.
6. Stay awake and alert. More frequent stops, more fresh air, lively radio programs and similar measures can help you to avoid drowsiness and inattention. Do not drive if you are tired.
7. Watch carefully for highway signs; they are harder to see at night.
8. Be especially watchful for pedestrians and vehicles stopped along the edge of the road.
9. Do not stop on the roadway for any reason.

Chapter 5

Safety Rules

Traffic laws alone cannot regulate every kind of a driving situation which may occur. There are some general rules which drivers should understand and follow. Read the following chapter with care, because someday these safety tips might help you avoid a serious accident or even save your life.

Entering the Car

Develop a routine for entering the car safely and preparing to start out. Make it a practice to enter from the curb side of the vehicle. If this is not possible, wait until your entry can be made with reasonable safety and without interfering with the traffic flow. Be prepared with your keys, as you approach the vehicle facing traffic. Adjust the seat, mirrors and check passengers to be sure they are properly seated and do not interfere with your driving. Before starting your ignition, buckle up and see that passengers do the same. After starting your vehicle, look back (don't depend on your rearview mirror), give the proper signal and move cautiously into the stream of traffic.

Seat Belts

Georgia law states that each occupant of the front seat of a vehicle traveling on Georgia roads and highways must be secured by a seat safety belt. All occupants of any vehicle must utilize a seat belt if under the age of 18.

Statistics show that three out of four traffic deaths occur within 25 miles of the driver's home and four out of five crashes occur at speeds of less than 40 mph. Without belts, people have been killed at speeds as low as 12 mph.

Safety belts are needed because they are the most effective occupant protection in all types of vehicle crashes. Using safety belts correctly is a preventable health care habit that:

- helps you keep control of the vehicle.
- helps keep your head from striking the dash or windshield.
- helps keep people in the vehicle from hitting each other.
- helps spread the crash force across the stronger parts of the body.
- helps protect you from injury if you are hit by someone driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- helps keep you from being ejected from the vehicle.

Your lifetime chances of being in a crash are virtually 100%. You have a 50% chance of suffering a disabling injury, and one in 50 chances of being killed. When used correctly, safety belts are effective. Using lap shoulder belts cuts your chances of being killed or seriously injured in a crash by 40 to 50 percent. Safety belts reduce the risk of death by approximately 60 percent. Occupant protection laws are primary in Georgia, meaning officers may stop and cite violators without the presence of another violation.

No new private passenger automobile shall be sold to the general public in this state unless such automobile shall be equipped with two sets of safety belts for the front seat thereof. The safety belts may be installed by the manufacturer prior to delivery to the dealer, or they may be installed by the dealer.

Any person violating the above will be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Safety Restraints for Children Four Years of Age and Under

Every driver, who regularly and customarily transports a child who is four years of age or younger in a passenger automobile, van, or pickup truck, other than one operated for hire, which is registered in this state, shall, while such motor vehicle is in motion and operated on a public road, street, or highway of this state, provide for the protection of such child in a child passenger restraining system approved by the United States Department of Transportation under Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 213 in effect on January 1, 1983. The provisions of the above shall not apply to a nonresident transporting a child in this state and shall not apply when the child's personal needs are being attended to.

Steering

Good posture at the steering wheel is important, for it results in better vision and control. When gripping the steering wheel, place your left hand at the 9 o'clock position and your right hand at the 3 o'clock position or evenly balanced on both sides of the wheel. Always keep both hands on the wheel, except when using one hand for some other driving task.

Making a Safe Turn

1. Make up your mind before you get to the turning point. Never make a "last minute" turn – it is too dangerous.
2. Look behind and to both sides, to see where other vehicles may be, before you change lanes.
3. Move into the proper lane as soon as possible. The faster the traffic is moving, the sooner you should do this.
4. Give the proper turn signal at an adequate distance before you make your turn. If using a hand signal, hold it until you are close enough to the intersection for others to know what you intend to do. Do not hold the signal while making the turn – you need both hands on the wheel.
5. Slow down to a reasonable turning speed.
6. Make the turn correctly. This will be easy if you are in the proper lane and proceeding carefully when you begin to turn.
7. Finish your turn in the proper lane.

Avoid These Turning Mistakes

1. Turning from the wrong lane.
2. Last minute decisions to turn.
3. Turning into the wrong lane.

Fog

The best rule for fog is to avoid driving, but if you must drive, there are some things which you can do to help prevent an accident.

1. Reduce speed sharply from your normal driving speed.
2. Reduce speed still more when you see headlights or red tail lights. The headlight may be on a vehicle which is being driven down the center of the pavement, and the car with the tail lights may be stopped on the road.
3. Dim your headlights; you will probably be able to see more clearly, as bright lights tend to glare.
4. Do not drive with parking lights only.

Hydroplaning

Hydroplaning takes place when you are driving on wet roads. At speeds up to 35 mph, most tires will wipe the road clean the same as a windshield wiper cleans the windshield. As your speed increases, tires cannot wipe the road as well and start to ride up on a film of water, just like a set of water skis. In a standard passenger car, partial hydroplaning starts about 35 mph, and increases with speed to about 55 mph at which point the tires may be totally up on the water. If this is the case, there is no friction available to brake, accelerate, or corner. A gust of wind or a slight turn can create an unpredictable and uncontrollable skid. In this situation, the best thing to do is to take your foot off of the accelerator, letting the car slow down. To prevent hydroplaning, it is most helpful to have good tires with sufficient tread.

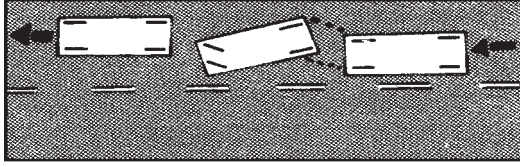
Skidding

A car skids when its tires lose their grip on the road surface. When a car skids, both the power which the engine sends to the wheels and the braking effect are lost. The only thing you can do if you skid is try to bring your car back under control. There are two things which you must remember:

1. Look where you want the vehicle to go and steer towards it.
2. Avoid braking.

Also important in regaining control is reduced speed. As you start to gain control, you may safely slow the vehicle by very gently pressing and releasing the brake pedal. The best thing you can do to avoid skidding is to slow down when approaching possible danger spots, and be prepared. Do not accelerate, brake or change lanes when riding on slippery spots such as gravel and sand or oil slicks. If the wheels keep rolling freely at the same speed in a fairly straight line, you are not likely to skid.

CORRECT
CORRECT



Note direction front wheels are turned.

Note direction front wheels are turned.

The first half-hour of rainfall is the most dangerous since roadways become extremely slippery due to the mixture of oil deposits and water on the road surfaces.

Curves

Curves call for special attention by drivers. They can be quite dangerous whether the road surface is wet or dry. When it is raining, some types of curves require much lower speeds than when dry. **Drivers should slow down before entering any curve.**

Sharper curves are usually marked with a safe miles per-hour entering speed. If you are exceeding this speed as you approach the curve, slow down before entering, using the brake if necessary. In case you find that you have entered at excess speed, do not panic and jam on the brakes, as locked wheels will only cause you to skid. An experienced driver can usually maneuver safely in this kind of situation by careful application of brake and power.

Running Off the Pavement

Serious accidents can be caused by running off the pavement. To avoid this, pay attention to your driving. If you should run off, or if you are forced off, there are certain things you can do which may save your life.

1. Don't panic.
2. Don't hit the brake pedal suddenly and hard; use your brakes carefully.
3. Grip the steering wheel tightly and be prepared to withstand sudden shocks.
4. Take your foot off the accelerator.
5. Don't try to swing back onto the pavement immediately. Wait until speed has reduced, check the traffic behind you, look for a place where you can get back onto the roadway and into traffic. When turning back onto the pavement your speed must be low enough to avoid crossing the center line into oncoming traffic lane or going completely across the roadway into the left-hand ditch.

Blow-Out

If you know what to do and don't panic, you can keep control of your car and bring it safely to a stop when a tire blows out.

1. Apply brakes lightly.
2. Grasp the steering wheel firmly and take your foot off the accelerator to allow the vehicle to roll to a halt.
3. Don't turn onto the shoulder of the road until the car is almost stopped. If the blow-out should cause the car to swerve on to the shoulder, do not try to get back on the pavement. Let the car coast to a stop.

Winter Driving

Most people realize that driving in winter is more dangerous than at any other time of the year due to hazardous weather conditions. Few know what to do about it. Here are several suggestions:

1. Use chains or snow tires.
2. Keep windows clear. Remove snow and ice before you drive.
3. Get the feel of the roadway. Start out very slowly. Test your brakes gently. Slow down gradually before you come to an intersection, turn or stop.
4. Keep a safe distance between you and other vehicles.
5. Reduce speed according to conditions.
6. Watch for danger spots ahead.

Following Too Closely

Most rear-end collisions are caused by following too closely. When following another vehicle on any street or highway, you must stay far enough behind to enable you to stop if the other vehicle suddenly slows down or stops. Watch the car ahead of you: when it passes some reference point, such as a telephone pole, count "one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two". If you pass the same spot before you are through counting, you are following too closely. Always add additional seconds for other hazards such as inclement weather.

Carbon Monoxide

Beware of carbon monoxide poisoning. Cars produce carbon monoxide which is a deadly odorless and colorless gas. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are sudden weariness, yawning, dizziness, and nausea. Simple precautions to avoid carbon monoxide are:

1. Don't leave the motor running in a garage.

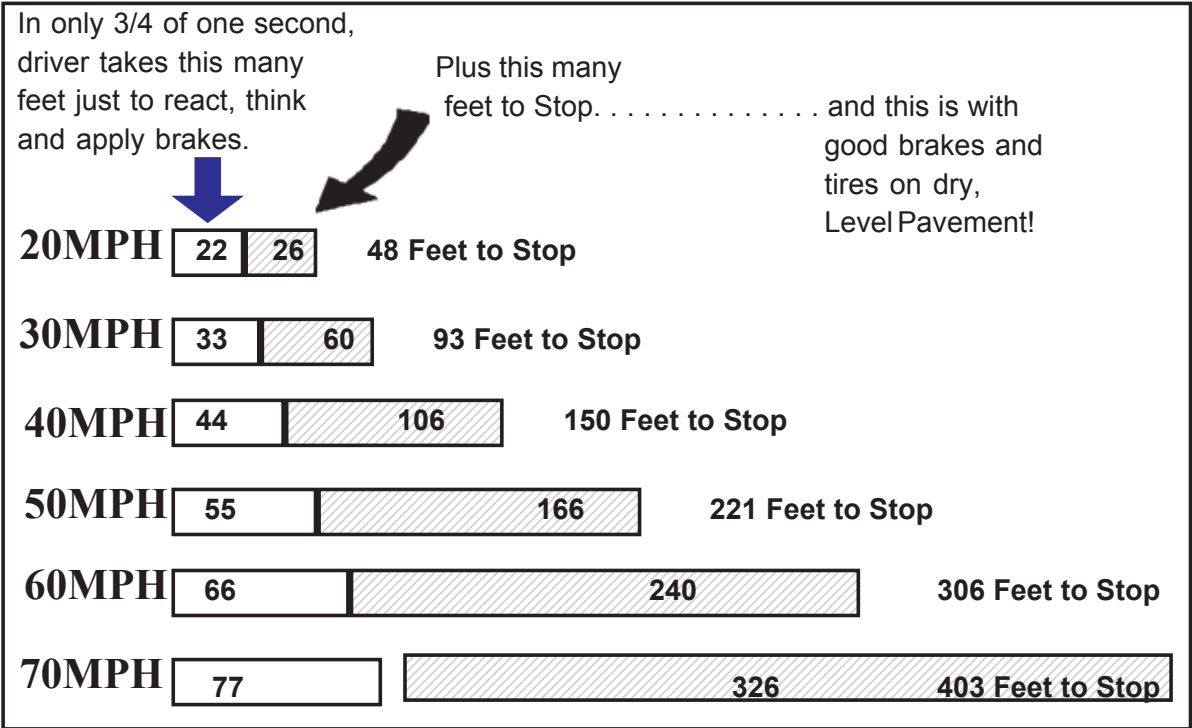
2. Don't leave the motor running and the window closed while the car is parked.
3. Don't operate the heater or air conditioner in a parked car with the windows closed.
4. Don't drive with a defective muffler or exhaust system.
5. Move a victim of carbon monoxide to fresh air and give artificial respiration.

Stopping Distance

The distance in which you can stop your car is important in determining a safe driving speed. This chart may be used as a guide, but actual stopping distance depends upon many factors.

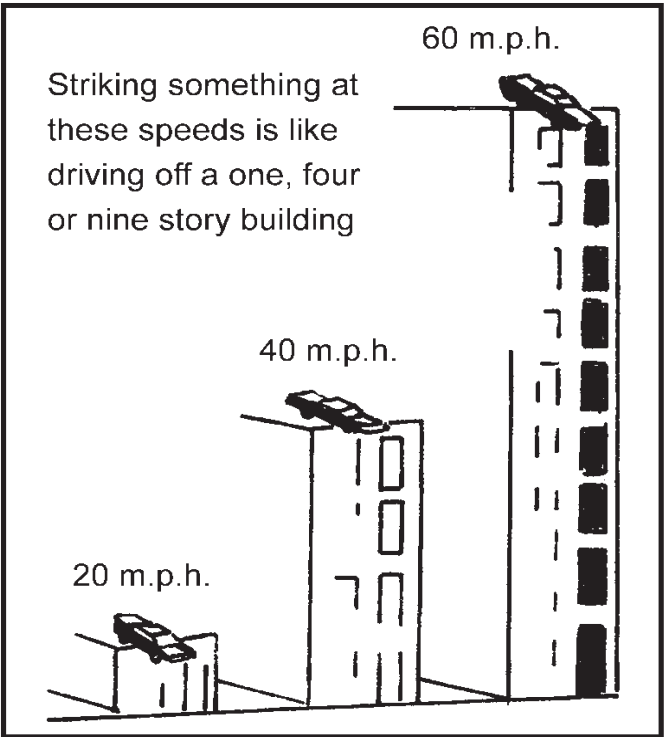
1. Mental and physical reaction of the driver.
2. Type and condition of the pavement.
3. Kind of tires and tread composition.
4. Chassis (frame) design.
5. Type of brakes, condition, and balance of brakes.

Stopping Ability of Standard Passenger Cars on a Dry, Clean, Level Pavement



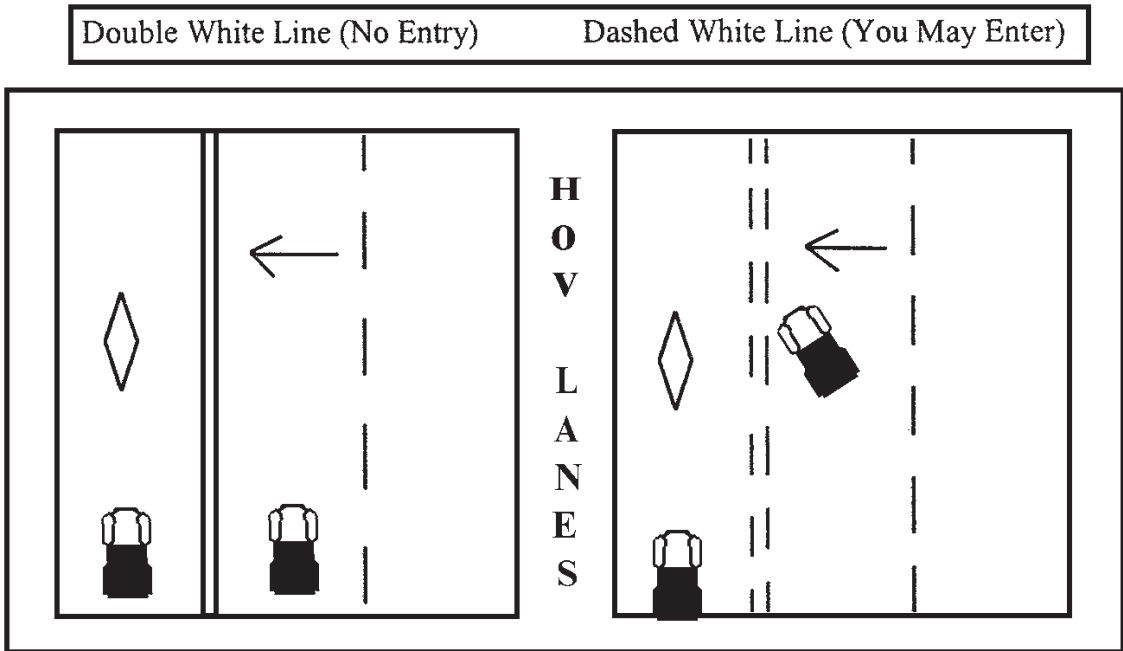
Force of Impact

Force of impact is the force when objects meet. Speed is very important in a collision because if you double the speed of a car, you increase its force of impact four times. If you triple the speed, the impact is nine times as great.



EXPRESSWAY DRIVING

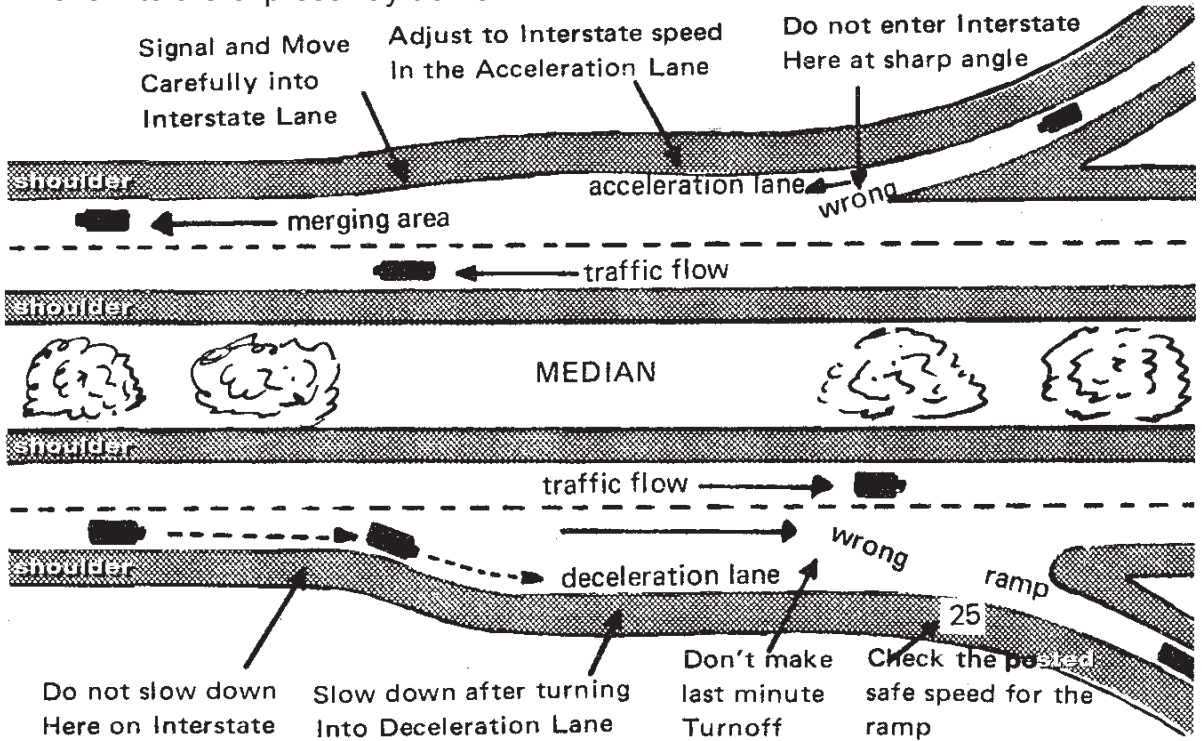
The basic feature of an expressway is that access to it is controlled or “planned”. One can only get on or off at specific places known as interchanges. Some multiple-lane roads are free while others require toll, but they all have several important advantages. If you know how to use them properly, you can get to your destination quicker, easier, and safer.



High Occupancy Vehicle lanes (HOV) are travel lanes that are restricted to vehicles with more than one occupant, buses and motorcycles. The lanes are marked with a diamond symbol and the hours of restriction are posted. The penalty for driving in the HOV lane with no one else in the vehicle is a fine up to \$75 for first offense; up to \$100 for second offense; up to \$150 for third offense; and up to \$150 fine plus one point added to the violator's driving record for the fourth or subsequent offense.

Entering Expressways

The entrance ramp is a short one-way road that leads to the expressway. From the entrance ramp, you should move onto the acceleration lane. This is the lane that runs along side the main roadway. On the acceleration lane, you can pace your speed to the speed of the expressway traffic. When you find a large enough gap between vehicles, you should move into the gap as smoothly as possible. **Vehicles on the expressway have the right of way**, but courteous drivers will permit you to move into the expressway traffic.



Exiting Expressway

Get into the right-hand lane well before reaching an exit on the right, or get into a left-hand lane for an exit on the left. Guide signs will tell you of the approaching exit. At the exit, deceleration lanes are provided for slowing down when leaving the expressway. Posted exit speeds are usually low, due to the design of the roadway. You will find yourself in serious trouble if you enter the ramp from the deceleration lane at the expressway speed. Do not slow down on the expressway itself under normal conditions.

Crossing Gore (Georgia Code 40-6-50)

(a) The term "gore" means the area of convergence between two lanes of traffic.

(b) Every vehicle driven on a divided highway shall be driven only upon the right-hand roadway unless directed or permitted to use another roadway by official traffic-control devices or police officers. No vehicle shall be driven over, across, or within any dividing space, barrier, gore, paved shoulder, or section separating the roadways of a divided highway; except that a vehicle may be driven through an opening in such physical barrier or dividing space or at an established crossover or intersection unless specifically prohibited by an official sign, signal, or control device. No person shall drive a vehicle onto or from any controlled-access roadway except at such entrances and exits as are established by public authority. No vehicle shall be driven in an emergency lane except in the event of an actual emergency.

Tips For Expressway Driving

Plan Your Trip Carefully: Mark the map to indicate all entrances, service areas, and exits you plan to use. Doing these things will help you to have a safe, fast, and pleasant journey.

Check Your Car Before You Start: Since expressways are designed for faster and smoother flowing traffic, there are fewer places to exit. It is very important to check your gasoline gauge and make sure you have enough fuel. Check also the water, oil, and tires of your vehicle.

Be Alert: Use your rearview mirror and side mirror to constantly check the traffic behind you. Always make visual traffic checks before you change lanes.

Stay Out of Another Driver's Blind Spot: Traveling in a position where the driver ahead of you cannot observe your vehicle in the rearview mirrors is a dangerous practice; the driver might pull out in front of you to pass a car. Either stay far enough behind so that the other driver can see you, or pass the vehicle.

Use Turn Signals: Be sure to flash right or left turn signal whenever you change lanes.

Allow Plenty of Room When Passing: Cutting back into the right-hand lane too soon is one of the major causes of expressway collisions. Therefore, be sure to allow enough space when passing. Carefully check the left lane behind you before pulling out to pass. Don't pull back into the right-hand lane until you can see the car that you just passed clearly in your rearview mirror.

Driving Too Slowly: The slowest speed you may normally travel on an expressway is 40 miles per hour. Sometimes, especially when the weather is good and traffic is light, even this can be too slow.

Rush Hour Driving: This is sometimes a very frustrating type of driving. One little "fender-bender" accident can clog the expressway for miles. When traveling by an accident scene, don't stop or slow down to a crawl to see what is happening. Often, curiosity seekers are the biggest offenders in clogging rush hour traffic. Always try to be courteous to the driving public.

Don't Back Up: Backing up on an expressway is prohibited under any circumstances.

Stopping: Stopping on the expressway is prohibited. You will find service areas and rest signs at frequent intervals; use them. Stopping on the roadway shoulder is permitted only in an emergency. If it is necessary to stop, raise the hood to indicate difficulty. Don't walk along the expressway in search of help.

Highway Hypnosis and Fatigue: Stop driving when you feel drowsy. Pull off the highway at the first rest stop or service area and take a nap. Drowsiness is one of the greatest dangers in expressway driving. Don't rely on stimulant drugs (Stay Awake Drugs). They are likely to make your driving even more hazardous. On long trips it is a good idea to exercise your eyes. Expressway drivers are subject to "highway hypnosis", a condition of drowsiness or unawareness brought on by monotony, the sound of the wind, the tires on the pavement, and the steady hum of the engine. Keep shifting your eyes from one area of the roadway to another and focus on various objects, both near and far, left and right. Reading the highway signs will help you stay awake and drive more safely.

Drive Defensively: The key to defensive driving is awareness. You must keep your eyes moving so that you can keep track of what is happening at all times. Avoid staring at the center strip, but rather look well ahead for trouble spots which may endanger you or your passengers. The defensive driver will also frequently check the rearview and side mirrors to keep abreast of the traffic situations to the rear and sides.

Never trust another driver to do what you think they are going to do or what they should do in any particular situation. The fact that a left turn signal is not flashing doesn't necessarily mean that the driver isn't going to make a left turn in front of you. You should constantly be thinking of an "escape route" as you drive. After a little practice this will become second nature. Then if a sudden emergency arises, you will not be surprised and you will have a plan of action ready. For example, if you are coming to a curve, you should be looking closely at the shoulder and nearby area to determine what you would do if a car approaching from the other direction is on your side of the road. The same consideration applies to bridges and hills.

If the car approaching you in the distance is starting to pass and you think it may not have enough room, work out your plan for safety measures before you meet head on.

If a collision seems unavoidable, don't panic. You should try to steer your way out of it and do anything to keep from hitting head on. If you must strike another car or object, try to do so at a slant. If there is any choice, select the softest thing to hit. This might be the ditch instead of another vehicle.

Keep your car in good mechanical condition. In emergency situations it may suffer considerable strain and stress. If the tires are inflated properly, the shock absorbers and steering related parts are in proper order and free from defects, your chances of survival will be greater.

DEER -AUTOMOBILE COLLISIONS

Each year numerous collisions occur in Georgia due to deer. Although hunting will keep deer herds in check, the potential for an accident always exists. Understanding common habits of deer and knowing what to do when a deer runs out in front of the car can help to avoid serious accidents.

Automobile accident statistics from the Department of Motor Vehicle Safety indicate that though deer-automobile collisions are on the rise, they still account for less than three percent of automobile accidents reported each year.

It is important to remember that deer are wild animals and are very unpredictable. The deer you see calmly standing on the side of the road may bolt into the road rather than away from it when startled by a car. In areas with known deer populations, drivers should constantly scan the road and road shoulders for deer movements and sightings. Always slow down when a deer crosses the road in front of you or another car. Deer usually travel in groups and there likely is another one following closely behind. If a deer is spotted on the road or roadside at night, the driver should slow down immediately, blink their headlights and switch to low beam so as not to blind the deer. Also, short horn blasts should help scare the deer from the road.

Should the deer or other animal run out in front of your car, slow down as much as possible to minimize the damage of a collision. Don't swerve to avoid a deer because you may collide with another car and cause more damage. If you do have an accident, call the police as soon as possible. Most insurance companies will require an accident report from the police before paying claims for those vehicles covered by collision insurance.

Deer are usually seen along the roadside during the early morning hours and late evening. Drivers should be alert for deer during these peak hours. Deer are most active in the fall months of October, November and December during the peak breeding season. Also late February and early March are critical months for deer-car collisions. During this period they concentrate along road shoulders to feed on new green food available following a long hard winter.

There's little you can do when a deer crashes into your car of its own accord. Fortunately, many collisions are avoidable, if you take precautions, slow down and know something about their habits.

OTHER EMERGENCIES

Fire

Apply mud, dirt, dust or snow.
Check ditch for water.
Use hub cap to carry water to wet apparel.
Loosen dirt with tire tool to throw on fire.

Accelerator Jammed

Slap the pedal with foot.
Shift to neutral.
Concentrate on steering.
Use brakes.
Turn off ignition (not to lock).

Brakes Fail

Shift to lower gear.
Use parking brakes.
Rub tire on the curb.
Look for a safe area to stop.

Wet Brakes

Test brakes lightly after driving through deep water. Brakes may pull to one side or may not hold at all. Dry brakes by driving slowly in low gear while applying brakes lightly.

Emotions Affect Your Driving

If you are emotionally upset, don't take a chance on driving. Persons who have just had violent arguments, or who are angry or in grief, need some time for "*cooling-off*" or making an adjustment before they drive a car. Taking it out behind the wheel on streets and highways is extremely dangerous and can prove an expensive way to expend emotions.

Alcohol: Most Abused Drug in America.

There are several things you should remember about alcohol:

1. Alcohol is not a stimulant; it is a depressant. It slows normal reactions, interferes with judgement and reasoning, and reduces alertness.
2. It is a common myth that if you stick to beer or wine, you won't get drunk. It is the amount of alcohol which enters the blood that causes the problem, not the form in which you take it.
3. If you've had too much to drink, coffee, food or milk will not sober you. For the average person, it takes one hour for the effects of one drink to wear off.

COMMON SYMPTOMS OF ALCOHOL INFLUENCE



0.03%



**SLOWED
REACTIONS**

0.05%



**INCREASED
RISK
TAKING**

0.08%



**IMPAIRED
VISION**

0.10%



**POOR
COORDINATION**

The probability of being involved in a motor vehicle accident is greatly increased after consuming alcohol or drugs before or during operation of a motor vehicle.

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!

Implied Consent

Georgia's implied consent law means that a person operating a motor vehicle on a public street or highway is automatically giving his permission for a test of alcoholic or drug content of his blood, breath, or urine, whenever requested to do so by an officer who has grounds to believe the driver is driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. If you choose to refuse the test, you will be subject to a one year suspension of your driver's license.

HEAVY TRUCKS

Sharing the Road. . . Safely

We depend on trucks, day and night, to bring us the things we need to live. If you ate it, drank it, slept on it, drove it, watched it, worked with it, or typed on it, a truck was used to deliver it. Trucks are driven by trained, specially-licensed drivers.

Sharing the road with heavy trucks is a necessary part of road travel. Heavy trucks, typically weighing 80,000 pounds, should be respected by car drivers.

Everyone should be aware of the differences between trucks and cars. These Include:

A fully loaded tractor-trailer, traveling 55 mph, needs 3 times the distance a car needs to stop. Trucks are more difficult to maneuver, are longer and heavier, and require much more room to turn. Trucks have larger blind spots.

Don't Hang Out in the "No Zone"!!!

Sharing the road safely includes knowing where not to linger when passing or driving next to a heavy truck. Typically, the larger the vehicle, the larger the blind spots.

A truck's blind spots, the "No Zone," are dangerous because truck drivers can't see cars in these areas.

It is impossible to completely avoid a truck's blind spots. However, car drivers should not remain in the "No Zone" any longer than needed to safely pass a heavy truck.

The easiest way to avoid lingering in the "No Zone" is to look for the truck driver's reflection in the side mirror. If you can't see the driver's reflection, you are in the truck driver's blindspot. These areas around the truck include: directly in front, directly behind and along each side. **Especially on the right side.**

Truck Safety - DOs

DO recognize and respect the differences between trucks and cars.

DO share the road safely.

DO teach friends and family to share the road safely.

DO avoid lingering in the "No Zone".

DO give trucks plenty of room (or cushion). In dry conditions, use the "two second rule". Follow trucks at a distance of at least two seconds. After passing a truck, give yourself at least two seconds before merging to the right, in front of the truck. Make sure you can see the entire truck in your review mirror before merging.

DO give trucks at least four to six seconds of space (or cushion) in wet conditions or at highway speed.

DO give trucks extra room for right turns.

DO give trucks extra space and time for backing-up.

DO call authorities if you see unsafe truck driving.

Truck Safety - DON'Ts

DON'T linger in the "No Zone" when passing a truck.

DON'T underestimate the size or speed of a truck.

DON'T slam on your brakes in front of a truck.

DON'T cut off a truck in traffic or on the highway to reach your exit or turn.

DON'T tailgate a truck. At highway speeds or on wet pavement, trucks have more traction than cars.

DON'T pass a truck on the right during a turn.

DON'T forget these safety guidelines. Remember that all motor vehicles are partners in traffic safety. All of us have responsibility to

SHARE THE ROAD.....SAFELY.

LITTER CONTROL LAW

Each year City, County and State Governments spend thousands of dollars to clean up litter from streets and highways of our State. The individual who litters causes harm to the beauty of the State and affects the health, welfare and safety of others.

It is the intention of the General Assembly to provide for uniform prohibition throughout the State of any and all littering on public and private property.

Definitions: (a) Unless otherwise stated the word “*littering*” means all sand, gravel, slag, brick bats, rubbish, waste material, tin can, refuse, garbage, trash, dead animals or discarded materials of every kind and description, (b) the phrase “*public or private property*” means the right-of-way of any road or highway, any body of water or watercourse of the shores or beaches thereof, any park, playground, building refuge or conservation or recreation area and residential or farm properties, timberlands or forest.

It is unlawful to dump, deposit, throw or leave litter on any public or private property in this State, or any waters in this State.

Whenever litter is thrown, deposited, or dropped from any motor vehicle the **operator** of the vehicle shall have violated the Litter Control Law.

All State law enforcement agencies are authorized to enforce compliance of the Litter Control Law.

Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction, be punished by a fine or a court may order the violator to pick up the litter from a specified area of roadway.

PROTECTING THE AIR

The operation of motor vehicles has a very significant impact on Georgia's air quality. Emissions from cars and light duty trucks contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, a component of urban smog. Especially during warm weather, vehicle emissions can react with sunlight at high temperatures to produce unhealthy levels of this form of air pollution. Vehicle emissions and ground-level ozone can be reduced by proper vehicle maintenance, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and by fewer trips and vehicle miles traveled.

In the thirteen county metro Atlanta area, gasoline-powered cars and light-duty trucks manufactured after July 1, 1985, must pass an emissions inspection every year prior to their registration with the county. The thirteen metro counties covered by the state's inspection and maintenance program are: Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Paulding and Rockdale. For more detailed information about the emissions inspection program, call the Georgia Clean Air Force at 1-800-449-2471. Please be reminded that removing or disabling a vehicle's emissions control components is a violation of federal and state law.

In addition to proper vehicle maintenance, you can help reduce air pollution and traffic congestion by limiting driving to necessary travel, by planning ahead to consolidate trips, and by using carpools, transit and ridesharing. Every driver should do their part to reduce the impact of automobiles and trucks on air quality and the environment.

VEHICLE INSPECTIONS ARE REQUIRED EVERY YEAR!!

**All covered vehicles will require emission testing in 2002.
This includes vehicles 1978 through 1999.**

New Car Exemption:

The three most recent model year vehicles in the current test year are exempt from inspection. For 2002, this includes all 2000 and newer vehicles (2002, 2001, and 2000)

Antique or Collector Vehicles:

Vehicles 25 years or older are exempt from an emission inspection. For 2002, 1977 and older model year vehicles are exempt. No application or antique tag is required.

Chapter 6

After You Get Your License

The State of Georgia considers dangerous, negligent, or incompetent drivers to be a menace to the safety of the general public; therefore, you must not abuse your privilege to drive or you may lose it. As long as you remain a resident of Georgia, your driving record will be on file with the Department of Motor Vehicle Safety.

Your License May Be Taken Away

There are three ways by which you may lose your driving privileges:

Cancellation: The Department of Motor Vehicle Safety is authorized to cancel your license if you fail to give the required or correct information needed in your application or if you are otherwise ineligible. You may reapply once you satisfy the requirements.

Revocation: When your license is revoked your driving privileges are terminated and withdrawn until the end of the period of time prescribed by the formal action of the Department. At the expiration of the revocation period, you may apply for a new license.

Suspension: When your license is suspended, your driving privilege is temporarily withdrawn for a specific period of time. Inquiries regarding suspension actions and license reinstatement procedures should be directed to the address indicated below:

**Georgia Department of Motor Vehicle Safety
Driver Services Division
P. O. Box 80447
Conyers, Georgia 30013
(404) 657-9300**

Reporting Convictions

After a conviction of a traffic offense, the court will forward notice of that conviction to the Department.

Mandatory Suspension

The Department shall mandatorily suspend a license for a conviction of any of the following offenses in Georgia or any other state:

1. Homicide by vehicle.
2. A conviction for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
3. Any felony in the commission of which a motor vehicle is used.
4. Using a motor vehicle in fleeing or attempting to elude an officer.
5. Fraudulent or fictitious use of, or application for a license.
6. Hit and run or leaving the scene of an accident.
7. Racing.
8. Failure to maintain minimum liability insurance coverage.
9. If you refuse to take a chemical test for intoxication, then your license will be suspended for 12 months.

10. Operating a motor vehicle with a revoked, canceled, or suspended registration in violation of Code Section 40-6-15.
11. Conviction for driving without insurance is a 60/90 day suspension.
12. If convicted for driving while license is suspended, revoked or canceled, your driver's license will be further suspended for six months.
13. If you fail to appear in court or respond to a citation, your license may be suspended indefinitely.
14. Your driver's license will be suspended if you are convicted of possession, distribution, manufacture, cultivation, sale or transfer of a controlled substance or marijuana.
15. The Department is authorized to suspend your license if its records or other evidence shows that you have accumulated 15 points within 24 months under the point system, including violations committed out-of-state.

Points are accumulated for:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| a. Reckless Driving | 4 points |
| b. Unlawful passing school bus | 6 points |
| c. Improper passing on hill or curve | 4 points |
| d. Speeding | |
| 15 mph but less than 19 mph | 2 points |
| 19 mph but less than 24 mph | 3 points |
| 24 mph but less than 34 mph | 4 points |
| 34 mph or more | 6 points |
| e. Disobedience of any traffic-control device or traffic officer | 3 points |
| f. Possessing an open container of an alcoholic beverage while driving | 2 points |
| g. Failure to adequately secure a load | 2 points |
| h. All other moving violations | 3 points |
| i. Child restraint - 1st offense..... | 1 point |
| j. Child restraint - 2nd and subsequent offense | 2 points |
| k. Aggressive driving | 6 points |
| (A conviction of aggressive driving by a person under 21 years of age will result in a suspension of the driver's license.) | |
| l. HOV lane violation - 4th and subsequent offense. | 1 point |

At the time of the suspension, the points shall be reduced to 0 points.

Mandatory Revocation

Your driver's license will be revoked in Georgia, or any other state, if you are convicted of one of the following:

1. For any third conviction of a mandatorily suspendable offense within 5 years, you will be declared a habitual violator. This is a five-year revocation.
2. Refusal to submit to a re-examination of driving skills or knowledge of driving rules after receiving notice giving reasonable grounds for such a request.
3. If there is sufficient evidence of incompetence or unfitness to drive, due to incapacities by reason of disease, mental or physical disability, or by alcohol or drug addiction.

Limited Driving Permits

If you are suspended for a first mandatory conviction, a first or second DUI conviction, or a first or second points suspension or insurance suspension, you may be eligible to apply for a limited permit. Limited Driving Permits may be obtained for:

1. Going to your place of employment or performing the normal duties of your occupation.
2. Not having a form of transportation to receive prescribed medical attention or obtaining prescribed drugs.
3. Attending classes at a college or other regularly scheduled school in which you are enrolled.
4. Attending a driver education, or assessment and treatment program court ordered.
5. To and from Ignition Interlock Centers.

The Department may specify specific places you may travel to, specific routes of travel, times of travel, specific vehicles or other restrictions the Department may deem necessary. A limited permit will be non-renewable and will become invalid on the expiration date of permit.

Upon the conviction of a second DUI, such person may apply for and be issued an ignition interlock device limited driving permit at the end of 12 months after the suspension of the driver's license. To be eligible for an interlock permit the licensee must submit proof of completion of DUI alcohol or drug risk reduction program, clinical evaluation, enrollment in treatment or completion of treatment if required by evaluation and installation of an interlock device. At the end of such six-month ignition interlock device limited driving permit, driver may apply for reinstatement of driver's license upon payment of the proper fee.

Under 21 Years of Age Suspension

The driver's license of any person under 21 years of age convicted of any of the following offenses shall be **SUSPENDED**:

1. Hit and run or leaving the scene of an accident in violation of Code Section 4-6-20.
2. Racing on highways or streets.
3. Using a motor vehicle in fleeing or attempting to elude an officer.
4. Reckless driving.
5. Any offense for which four or more points are assessable under subsection (c) of Code Section 40-5-57.
 - *Unlawful passing of a school bus.
 - *Improper passing on a hill or curve.
 - *Exceeding the speed limit by 24 miles per hour or more.
6. Purchasing an alcoholic beverage.
7. Driving under the Influence.
8. Aggressive Driving, Code Section 40-6-397.
9. Misrepresenting age for purpose of illegally obtaining any alcoholic beverage (3-3-23 (a) (3)).
10. Misrepresenting identity or using false identification for purpose of purchasing or obtaining any alcoholic beverage (3-3-23 (a) (5)).

11. The driver's license of any person under 18 years of age who has accumulated a violation point count of four or more points within any 12 month period.

A person whose driver's license has been suspended for driving under the influence shall not be issued a new driver's license without submitting proof of completion of DUI Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction Program approved by the Department of Human Resources and payment of a \$210 fee if processed in person or \$200 if processed by mail, and make application for and pass the full driver examination pursuant to Code Section 40-5-27. A person suspended for offenses other than DUI shall submit proof of the completion of a Defensive Driving Program approved by the Department of Motor Vehicle Safety, payment of the same fee as specified above and apply for and pass the full driver examination pursuant to Code Section 40-5-27.

Length of Suspension

The length of suspension shall be as follows:

A person whose driver's license has been suspended under subsection (a) of Code Section 40-5-57.1 shall:

- Except as otherwise provided by paragraph (2) of Code Section 40-5-57.1:
- (A) Upon a first suspension, be eligible to apply for and, subject to the examination requirements of Code Section 40-5-27 and payment of the required fees, be issued a new driver's license six months from the date on which the suspended license was surrendered to and received by the Department; and
 - (B) Upon a second or subsequent such suspension, be eligible to apply for and, subject to the examination requirements of Code Section 40-5-27 and payment of required fees, be issued a new driver's license 12 months from the date on which the suspended license was surrendered to and received by the Department;

If the driver's license was suspended for violation of Code Section 40-6-391 and the driver's alcohol concentration at the time of the offense was 0.08 grams or more, be eligible to apply for and, subject to the examination requirements of Code Section 40-5-27 and payment of required fees, be issued a new driver's license 12 months from the date on which the suspended license was surrendered to and received by the Department.

ACCIDENTS

If You Are Involved In An Accident

1. Stop immediately in a safe place.
2. Warn other traffic. Use flares when they are available.
3. Help anyone who may be hurt.
4. Notify the nearest law enforcement agency immediately if anyone is injured, killed or if property damage exceeds \$500.00.
5. Give your name, address, license plate number, and driver's license number to anyone else who was involved in the accident. Get the same information from the other driver.
6. If you damage an unattended vehicle, you must either locate the owner or leave your name, address, and the name of the owner of vehicle you were driving, in a conspicuous place where the owner will find it.

Aiding the Injured

Do not assume that a person is not injured simply because they say they are not. Send for professional help as soon as possible. Unskilled handling can do more harm than good. Do not move or lift the victim unless it is absolutely necessary. If the victim is moved, get help and try not to change the position in which the victim was found. Stop serious bleeding with thick cloth pads, as clean as possible, applied with pressure by hand. Keep the victim warm. Cover the victim with blankets or coats, if necessary.

Georgia has a Good Samaritan Law. This law holds any person harmless for civil damages arising as a result of any act or omission in rendering emergency care.

SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES LAW

The purpose of this law is to remove irresponsible drivers from Georgia highways and to protect insured motorists from uninsured motorists.

Suspension of License and Registration For Failure To Respond To A Claim For Damage Resulting From An Accident.

1. In the event you should fail to satisfy a claim for damage resulting from a motor vehicle accident, and a claim is filed against you under the Safety Responsibility Law, you will receive an order suspending your license, registration, and plates for one year. To avoid the suspension, you may
 - a. If you were covered by liability insurance, have your carrier file Form SR-21 with the Safety Responsibility Unit, or
 - b. File with the Safety Responsibility Unit a release, either general or conditional, signed by the claimant, or

- c. Post security, which may be cashier's check, certified check, money order, real property bond or surety bond, in addition to posting of financial responsibility, Form SR-22A.
 - d. Any security or bond posted with the Safety Responsibility Unit, will be held for one year and thereafter until proof is furnished to the Department that you have not been sued as a result of the accident.
2. You are entitled to a pre-suspension hearing, if desired, and if requested within ten (10) days of the issue date of the order of suspension.

§ 40-6-275. Duty to remove vehicle from roadway or expressway or multi-lane highway; removal of incapacitated vehicle from state highway.

(b) This Code section shall apply to motor vehicle traffic accidents which will occur on the expressways and multi-lane highways of this state.

(c) When a motor vehicle traffic accident occurs with no apparent serious personal injury or death, it shall be the duty of the drivers of the motor vehicles involved in such traffic accident, or any other occupant of any such motor vehicle who possesses a valid driver's license, to remove said vehicles from the immediate confines of the roadway into a safe refuge on the shoulder, emergency lane, or median or to a place otherwise removed from the roadway whenever such moving of a vehicle can be done safely and the vehicle is capable of being normally and safely driven, does not require towing, and can be operated under its own power in its customary manner without further damage or hazard to itself, to the traffic elements, or to the roadway. The driver of any such motor vehicle may request any person who possesses a valid driver's license to remove any such motor vehicle as provided in this Code section, and any such person so requested shall be authorized to comply with such request.

(d) The driver or any other such person who has removed a motor vehicle from the main traveled way of the road as provided in the subsection (c) of this Code section before the arrival of a police officer shall not be considered liable or at fault regarding the cause of the accident solely by reason of moving the vehicle pursuant to this Code section.

(e) This Code section shall not abrogate or affect a driver's duty to file the written report required by Code Section 40-9-30, but compliance with the requirements of this Code section shall not allow a driver to be prosecuted for his failure to stop and immediately report a traffic accident.

(f) This Code section shall not abrogate or affect a driver's duty to stop and give information in accordance with the law, nor shall it relieve a police officer of his duty to render a report in accordance with the law.

Chapter 7

MOTORCYCLE OPERATOR LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

A Class M license, or a Class M endorsement on another class of license, is required to operate, legally, a motorcycle or motor-driven cycle in Georgia. Every motor vehicle having a saddle for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground, but excluding a tractor and moped, are defined as motorcycles. Georgia law places all types of motorcycles (including scooters, motorbikes and minibikes) into one classification. All are considered motor-driven cycles.

CLASS M – LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Must be 16 years of age and have parental consent, if under 18.
2. Must successfully complete a motorcycle examination which includes special road signs test, a special road rules test and an actual driving test on a motorcycle.
3. You must also pass a visual acuity test. If the vision test was administered and passed during the year, the eye test may be waived.
4. If the applicant meets the established requirements for a Class M license, and also possesses a Class C or combination of other classes of permits, that license must be surrendered and a photographic license containing the Class M endorsement will be issued. The applicant will not be given a refund for their remaining period of validity of the other license, but such endorsements would run concurrently with the Class M endorsement.

CLASS M – INSTRUCTIONAL PERMIT

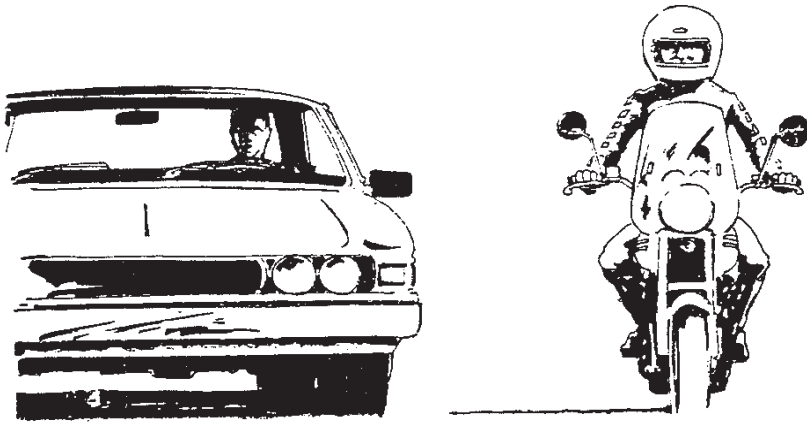
All applicants must pass an eye test and an examination of motorcycle knowledge. An issued Class M instruction permit is valid for 6 months, after which time the applicant may return to the issuing station and take a road test. It is not mandatory for a Class M license applicant to obtain a Class M Instructional Permit before taking the Class M examination. Restrictions for a Class M instructional permit are the following:

1. Must be at least 16 years old and have parental consent if under 18.
2. Motorcycle operation in daylight hours only.
3. No passengers allowed.
4. No limited access roadways.
5. Safety equipment as prescribed by law.



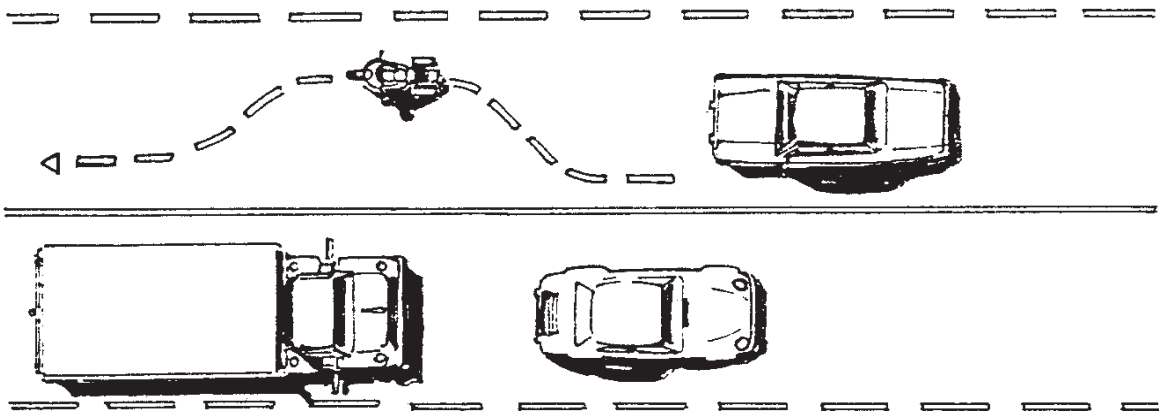
SHARING THE ROAD WITH MOTORCYCLES

Today's motorcycle riders are friends, relatives, and neighbors, but many car drivers still have not adjusted to motorcycles appearing in traffic. Traveling by motorcycle is appealing to some people; they are fuel and space efficient...and can be just plain fun to ride. But there is a flip side: motorcyclists are more vulnerable to injury than a car driver if involved in an accident. Research shows that over two-thirds of the car/motorcycle accidents are the result of a car driver turning in front of the motorcyclist. Motorcycles and cars need to mix in traffic without causing harm to each other. To do so, we need to understand more about motorcycles, and why riders do some of the things they do.



Motorcycles present a narrow silhouette and are usually much shorter in length than an automobile. The small profile of the motorcycle may make it appear farther away and traveling slower than it actually is. Because it is difficult to judge the motorcycle's distance and speed, car drivers need to take a second look, and then a third. Its small size also makes it more difficult to spot in traffic than another car. Some motorcyclists take advantage of their small size and maneuverability. They may cut between cars and put themselves in places where drivers cannot see them. Be alert for a motorcycle to appear unexpectedly.

**MAKE SURE YOU SEE THE MOTORCYCLE AND KNOW ITS SPEED
BEFORE YOU START TO TURN OR ENTER AN INTERSECTION.**



Because of a motorcycle's size, its position within a lane of traffic will change as traffic conditions change. The motorcyclist will position himself in the lane to see and be seen. Often, this means riding in the left portion of the traffic lane to allow a better view of some traffic and road situations. It also makes the motorcycle more visible to other traffic. However, as traffic and road conditions change, the riders may move. This move could be to the center of the lane or even to the right side to avoid traffic or to be seen by others on the road.

Most drivers take for granted the ability of their automobile to handle minor road hazards such as potholes or railroad tracks. Minor problems for the four-wheeled vehicle can be major problems for motorcycles. The cyclist will change position

within the lane to increase the distance from potential hazards. These lateral movements sometimes occur suddenly. Motorists need to be alert for these sudden changes in position and direction, and drive accordingly. Respect the vehicle space of a motorcycle and its position in traffic. Motorcycles are allowed the full width of a lane in which to maneuver. Refrain from sharing a lane with a motorcyclist. It restricts the rider's ability to avoid hazardous situations.

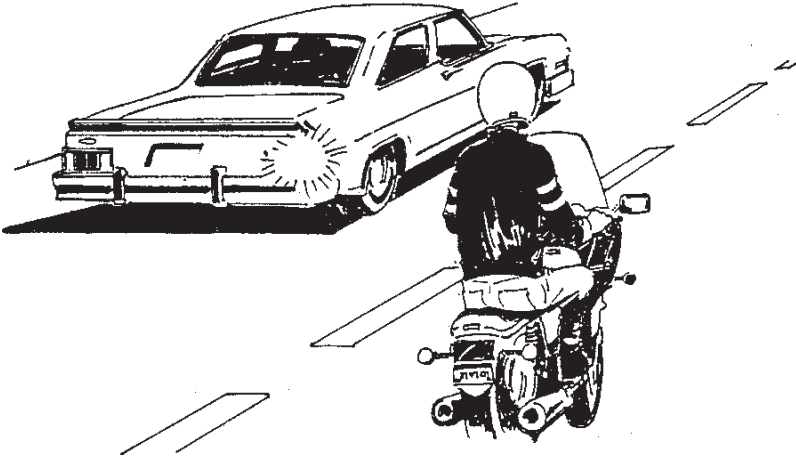
INTERSECTIONS

Intersections are the most likely places for car/motorcycle collisions to occur. As stated earlier, this usually is the result of a car driver NOT SEEING the motorcycle and turning into the motorcycle's path. Misinterpreting a rider's intentions can also lead to traffic conditions. The rider will move to one side of the lane in preparation for a turn or possibly to move away from a hazard unseen by other motorists. Do not assume the rider's intention until the maneuver is unmistakably started, such as a turn into an intersection or driveway. Also, turn signals do not automatically shut off on a motorcycle and riders occasionally forget to cancel them after a turn is completed. Make sure you know what the rider is going to do BEFORE you move into the motorcycle's path.



FOLLOWING TOO CLOSE

When driving behind a motorcycle, allow at least a 2-second following distance. This provides the cyclist enough room to maneuver or stop in an emergency. Due to its vulnerable nature and the difficulty motorists have in judging a motorcycle's speed and distance, space between the two vehicles should be increased to avoid sudden braking. Both riders and drivers are more likely to make incorrect decisions if there is not enough stopping distance or ability to see and react to conditions. This leads to accidents. A rider's chances of injury is greater if forced to avoid obstacles ahead, as well as a driver following too closely.



PASSING AND BEING PASSED

The rules for passing other vehicles are similar for motorcycles. The motorist being overtaken by a cycle should maintain lane position and speed. Allow the cyclist to complete the pass and assume proper lane position as quickly as possible. When passing a motorcycle, allow a full lane to the motorcycle. Never crowd into the same lane as the cycle. Returning to the original lane too soon can force a rider to swerve to the right into traffic or off the road.

OPERATOR'S LICENSE

Motorcycles are different to operate than an automobile; they require special knowledge and skills. It only makes sense that a motorcycle operator license be required. Most states now have a separate knowledge and skill test that must be completed for motorcycle operation. Passing both tests qualifies the rider for an additional endorsement to their license allowing motorcycle operation. Also, motorcycles must be registered and insured to the same standards as an automobile.

What all this means is, motorcycles are a full partner in the traffic mix and must be treated with the same courtesies. Watch for the unexpected and give them their share of the road; a rider may be the neighbor next door.

There is a separate manual available for Motorcycle drivers. These may be obtained at your local driver's license examining station.

This section is provided through the courtesy of the Motorcycle Safety Foundation. The information generally relates to many differing vehicles, riding styles and environments. The Motorcycle Safety Foundation disclaims any liability for the applicability in specific situations.

There's only one license for people who carry a lot of weight!

The Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986 (CMVSA)

A NEW LAW FOR TRUCK AND BUS DRIVERS.

Who is Considered a "Commercial Driver"?

The new law affects anyone who drives a vehicle that:

- weight 26,001 pounds or more (gross vehicle weight rating);
- is designed to carry 16 or more passengers (including the driver) in any weight class; or
- transports hazardous materials (requiring a placard, as defined by DOT regulations) in any weight class.

Passed by the 99th Congress, the President signed the CMVSA on October 27, 1986. This new law has three principal goals:

1. To improve driver quality.
2. To remove problem drivers from the highways.
3. To establish a system that will prevent commercial motor vehicle drivers from having more than one license.

The Act recognizes that driving certain types of vehicles calls for special skills, knowledge and physical characteristics.

It also addresses a serious problem involving multiple drivers licenses. By securing licenses from more than one jurisdiction, **some** commercial drivers have previously avoided suspensions and penalties for driving violations. By hiding convictions among licensing records of several states, their 'complete' driving record had never surfaced and they stayed on the roads.

What does this new law mean to **ME**?

The Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986:

- makes it illegal for a commercial driver to have more than one driver's license. There are a few temporary exceptions (several states have laws requiring special non-resident licenses for some commercial drivers. Although those laws will be changing in the next several years, commercial drivers should **keep** the licenses which are accepted from: Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, New Hampshire, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin). Drivers who hold extra licenses issued to them by states other than their home state **MUST** surrender these extra licenses to the state(s) that issued them or they will be in violation of federal law and could be fined up to \$2500.00.

- Commercial drivers **MUST** report any convictions of moving violations in a commercial motor vehicle to their home state of licensing and to their employer.
- Commercial drivers **MUST** notify their employer if their driver's license has been suspended, revoked, cancelled or if they are disqualified under the CMVSA/86.
- When applying for a new driving job, commercial driver's must provide an employment history of the prior ten years.
- An employer **MAY NOT ALLOW** an employee to operate a commercial motor vehicle if the employer knows the employee's driver license is suspended, revoked, cancelled, if the employee has been disqualified under the CMVSA/86 or if the employee has more than one driver's license (except in those cases where temporary exceptions are allowed.)

Longer disqualifications – Second violations of any of the above three violations can lead to a longer disqualification, up to a lifetime disqualification.

NOTE: These federal disqualifications are the minimum established by the CMVSA/86. It is possible that individual states may include violations that would disqualify and further penalize commercial motor vehicle drivers.

Chapter 1 - 3, SECTION II

Anyone who operates a motor vehicle with a weight rating over 26,000 lbs. which is exempt from the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act must possess a Non-Commercial license of the proper class.

Classes of licenses are covered on page 4 of this manual.

EXEMPTIONS ARE:

FARM VEHICLES (controlled and operated by a farmer within 150 miles of the farm)

MILITARY (military personnel driving military machines)

FIRE FIGHTING EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

There is a separate manual available for Commercial drivers. These may be obtained at your local driver's license examining stations.

SECTION II - CLASSIFIED LICENSES A and B

Chapter 1

Class A The Tractor-Trailer Driver's License Non-Commercial

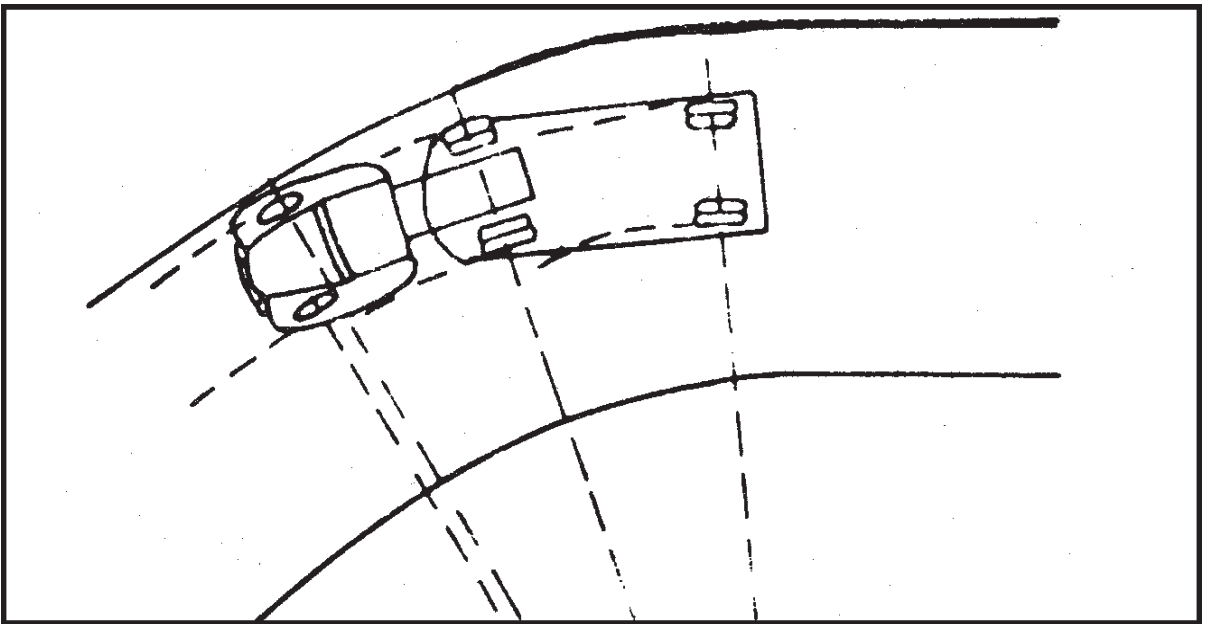
Failure to Qualify

If the applicant for a Class A license fails to qualify on the eye test, a license will not be issued.

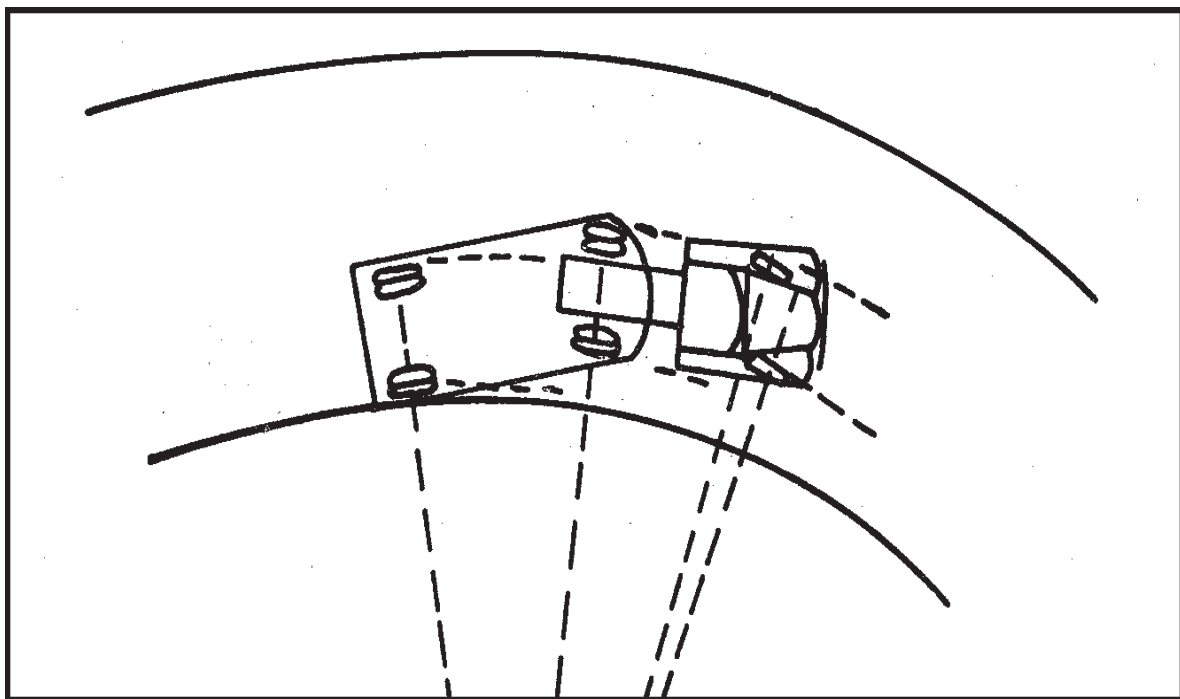
- a. If the applicant passes the vision, knowledge and road signs tests, but fails to provide an affidavit (DS-36), they may be issued a Class A instructional permit for a 12 month period.
- b. If at the time of qualifying, an affidavit (DS-36) of driving skill is furnished, your Class A license will be provided.

Curves

Curves must always be taken at a reduced speed consistent with the available sight distance, the sharpness of the curve and other prevailing road and traffic conditions. When rounding a curve, the rear of any vehicle follows a substantially shorter path than the front. This is true with any type of vehicle from a coaster-wagon to the largest tractor-semitrailer combination. In trucker's language, this is called "off-track." The greater the distance between the front and rear wheels and the sharper the turn, the greater the off-track. Thus, the path taken by the rear of the vehicle becomes almost as important as that taken by the front.



On a left curve, tractor must keep close to the outside shoulder.



On a right curve, tractor must keep close to center of road.

On the open highway, the driver must be trained to keep the front of the vehicle toward the center of the road on a right curve so that the rear will not travel off the pavement. On a left curve, the front of the vehicle must be held toward the outside of the curve so that the rear will not cut short into a lane of opposing traffic.

Turns

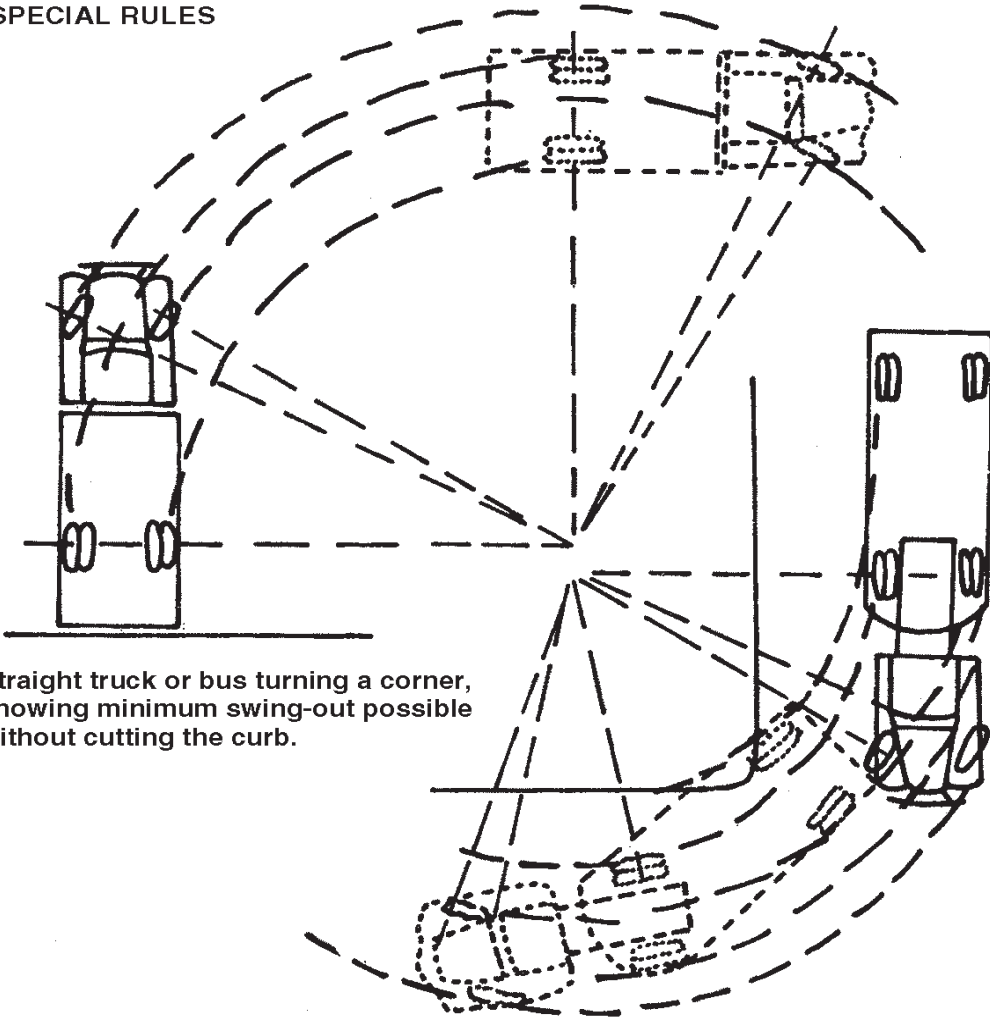
Turning a large vehicle requires more care and specialized knowledge than turning a passenger car. Operators of large vehicles have certain factors to bear in mind. You must be especially careful to watch the “off-track” of your back wheels. For a given turn of the steering wheel, the rear wheels follow a shorter path than the front wheels. Allow for this on all turns so that your vehicle does not strike another vehicle or object causing an accident.

Be careful to avoid swinging wide when making a right turn. Otherwise, there is the danger that some other driver will try to pass on your right. It is safest to swing wide into the street you are entering as you make the turn. When the traffic light is green and you are waiting to make a left turn, move your tractor to the center of the intersection before making the turn so that the rear of the vehicle will follow a proper path without cutting too short.

Backing

The control of a single-unit truck while backing is the same as for a passenger car. The steering wheel is turned in the same direction in which it is desired to move the back end of the vehicle. In backing a tractor-trailer, the steering wheel must be turned in a direction opposite to that in which it is desired to move the rear of the trailer. When backing a vehicle, both rearview mirrors should be used.

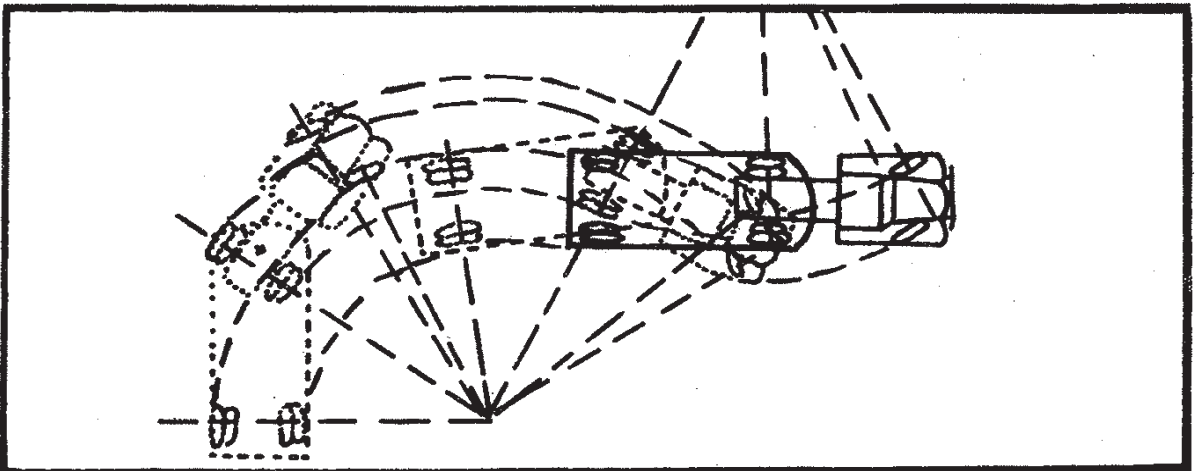
SPECIAL RULES



Straight truck or bus turning a corner, showing minimum swing-out possible without cutting the curb.

Tractor-semitrailer making same turn, showing how trailer wheels will strike curb - more swing-out required.

A vehicle should be backed slowly because, even with two mirrors, vision is limited. There is always a "blind spot" to the rear which a mirror cannot reflect. When no observer is present, you should leave your "rig" and personally check the path it will take you when you back it up.



The tractor must follow an S-shaped course to bring the trailer around smoothly.

Loading and Unloading

1. Plan your route to keep backing at a minimum. Never back into traffic if you can avoid it as many commercial vehicle accidents occur when a vehicle is being backed.
2. Be sure to inspect your line of travel before backing by walking around your vehicle.
3. Even when a helper is directing you, you are responsible for safe backing. Be sure your helper is in a position where he has a clear view and where his signals can be seen and heard by you and other users of the highway.
4. When body doors must be opened prior to backing up to a dock, be sure they are properly fastened in position so that they will not swing or strike an object.
5. When spotting trucks or trailers at a platform, precautions should be taken to guard against rollaways. Always block the trailer wheels when leaving a trailer spotted alone.

Proper Brake Use

1. Brakes should be applied with steady pressure at the beginning of a stop and then eased off as the vehicle slows down. Just before the vehicle comes to a complete stop, brakes should be released to avoid jerk and rebound, and then applied again to hold vehicle while it is stopped.
2. Brakes should not be fanned (alternately applied and released) except on slippery pavement where this type of braking gives a shorter stop. Fanning brakes serves no useful purpose on dry pavement. This practice causes rapid overheating of the brakes and wastes air pressure. It can leave you without effective brakes when you need them most.
3. Great care must be taken to avoid excessive use of brakes on a long downgrade. Drivers should use engine compression as the principle means of controlling speed on long grades and in mountainous terrain. They should use the same gear in descending a long grade as they would in climbing it.
4. If the low-air pressure warning activates at any time, the driver must stop immediately in the safest available place and correct the loss of pressure before proceeding.
5. The trailer hand valve (trolley brake) has a limited purpose. It may be used as a hill-holder or to prevent jack-knifing. It is also used in testing a hookup, but it should not be used for any other purpose.
6. If your brakes should fail on a level road you should downshift and use engine compression to slow down your vehicle.

Parking

To insure that a unit will stay in position when parked, the following precautions must be observed to prevent a runaway vehicle.

1. Set parking brakes in power unit.
2. Place transmission in lowest forward gear or reverse.
3. If vehicle is equipped with two-speed axle, the axle must be in low range when the vehicle is parked.
4. If vehicle is equipped with auxiliary transmission, the transmission must be in low range when the vehicle is parked.
5. Block the unit.
5. Under no circumstances may a driver use the trailer hand valve to hold a parked unit.

Coupling and Uncoupling Tractor-Trailers

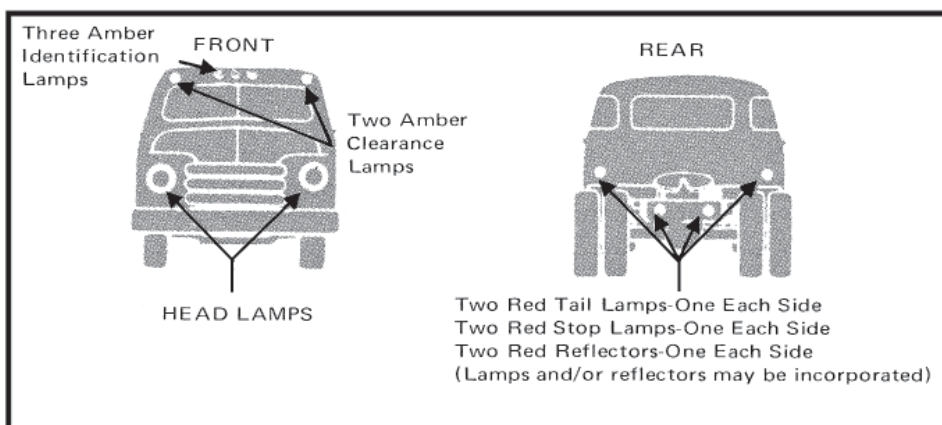
A. *Coupling*

1. Back the tractor so that the 5th wheel opening is in a direct line with the trailer kingpin.
2. Back slowly and stop just before the 5th wheel makes contact with the trailer apron plate. Secure tractor.
3. Check to see if 5th wheel coupler is open. Check the height of 5th wheel with the trailer apron. If the trailer is too high or too low, make the proper adjustment by raising or lowering landing supports.
4. Connect air lines and electrical cord socket to trailer. Apply and release trailer brakes several times to determine if air is reaching trailer brakes. Air lines are connected incorrectly if the air is not escaping from the exhaust valve at the rear of the trailer.
5. Re-apply trailer brakes to lock trailer wheels. Back under trailer until 5th wheel coupler engages with the trailer kingpin, locking it automatically.
6. Check the coupling by gently pulling the tractor forward with the trailer brakes locked.
7. Secure the tractor and trailer and check under the trailer to see if the 5th wheel coupler is locked around the kingpin.
8. Raise landing wheels or supports.

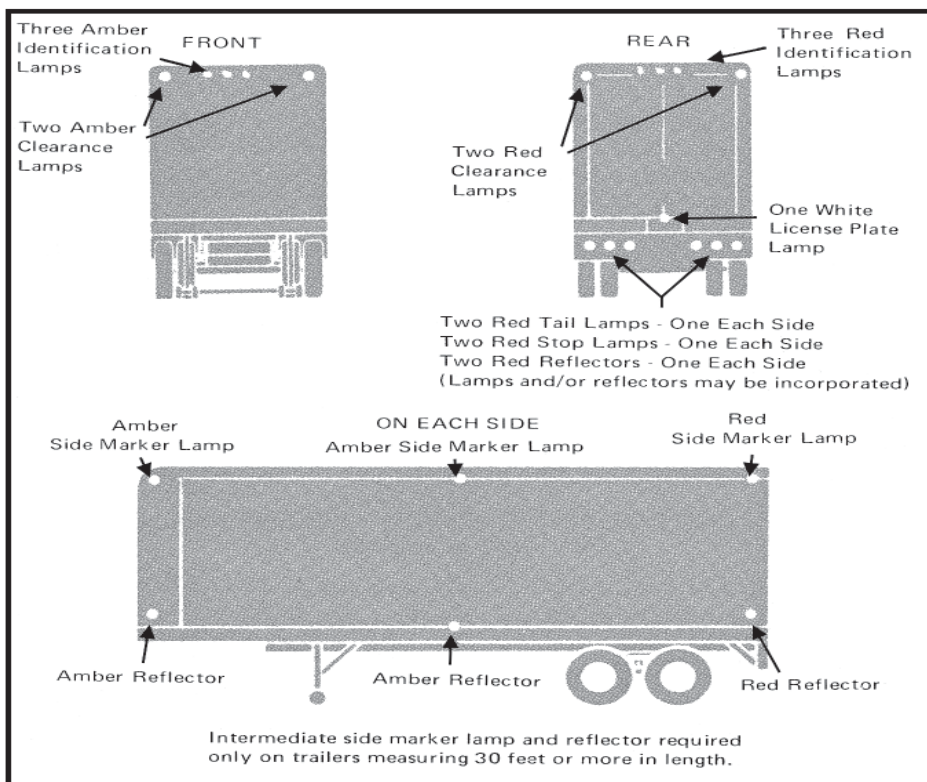
B. *Uncoupling*

- Line up tractor and trailer in straight line.
- Lower landing wheels and block the trailer wheels. Make sure landing wheels are lowered on solid level ground. Place planks or similar material under landing wheels if necessary to prevent them from sinking into soft ground.
- Uncouple brake hoses and light cords and make sure they are clear.
- Pull coupler release lever to disengage 5th wheel jaws from trailer kingpin.
- Pull out from under the trailer slowly to permit landing gear to take up the load gradually.

Lighting and Reflector Requirements For Tractor-Trailers



Note: *The clearance and identification lamp requirements apply only to common and contract carriers.*



Chapter 2

Class B – Non – Commercial

Failure to Qualify

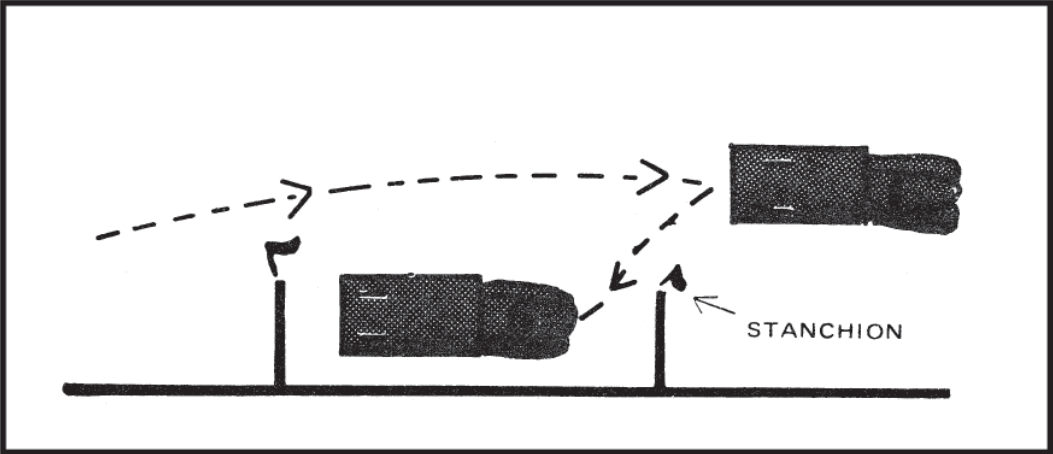
If the applicant for a Class B license fails to qualify on the eye test, a license will not be issued.

- a. If the applicant passes vision, knowledge and road signs test, but fails to provide an affidavit (DS36), they may be issued a Class B instructional permit for a 12 month period.
- b. If, at the time of qualifying, an affidavit (DS36) of driving skill is furnished, a Class B license will be provided.

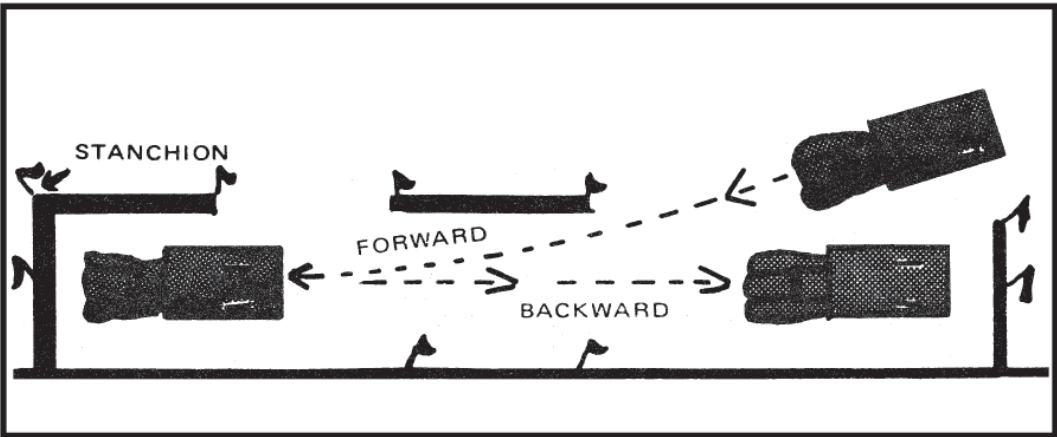
Safety Practices for Truck Drivers

1. A cautious driver approaches intersections with their foot resting on the brake pedal, ready to stop if necessary.
2. If intending to turn right, you must signal your intention for an adequate distance to alert all following or approaching motorists.
3. If intending to turn left on a one-way street, the driver pulls into the left lane as soon as practical. The driver must signal for an adequate distance to alert all motorists before making the turn.
4. On a two-way street, the driver places the truck so that the left wheels are to the right of the center of the road and must signal for an adequate distance to alert other motorists of the intention to turn.
5. If pulling into a loading zone, a truck driver approaches the curb at a speed which will allow a slow smooth stop. The driver angles the bus toward a corner after the rear door of the truck is beyond parked vehicles along the curb and applies brakes smoothly and steadily, instead of “fanning”.
6. Before starting, the driver makes certain the doors are closed. If at an intersection, the driver makes sure of a “go” signal, and that no pedestrian or vehicles are in the way. The driver does not attempt to pass a moving vehicle in or at an intersection. The driver also makes a smooth start and picks up speed gradually.
7. If the vehicle is moving straight ahead, the driver moves slowly and parallel with the curb until the vehicle is in the center of the intersection, constantly checking the vehicular and pedestrian traffic situation both ahead and to the rear.
8. If making a right turn, he checks to the rear, alongside, and straight ahead, and angles the truck at about a 30 degree angle toward the center of the street until the front end of the truck is about 10 feet from the curb. He begins the turning movement when the front wheels are past the curbline or objects which must be cleared. He turns the steering wheel evenly and checks with vehicles or other objects on the left. He gradually straightens out the truck. In turning and receiving the steering wheel he may use the “hand-over-hand” or the “push-pull” technique. Most experts recommend the latter.

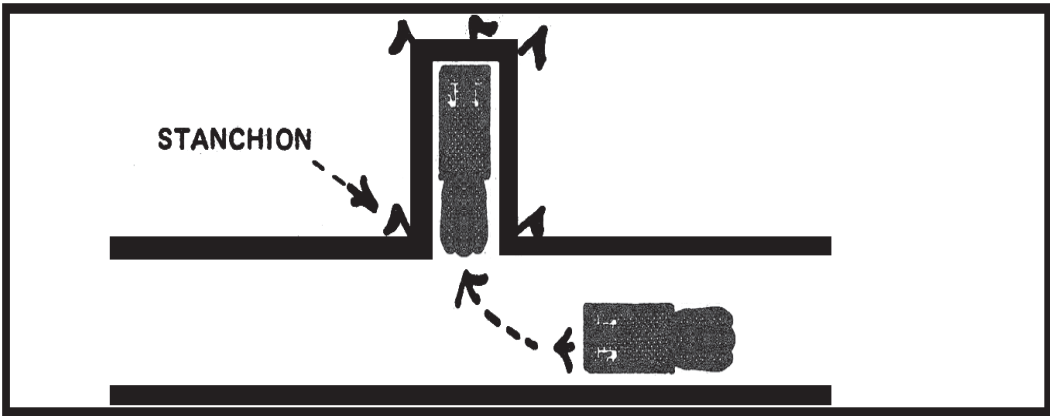
9. When turning and changing lanes, be especially careful to check and make sure no motorists are traveling in blind spots.
10. In a backing truck, the driver should use all mirrors and a reliable person to observe for other traffic and pedestrians.



The above diagram illustrates the proper maneuver for backing into a designated space which is required when making certain types of deliveries.



The above diagram illustrates the proper procedure for maneuvering a vehicle into an alley on a narrow street and a stop so that the rear of the vehicle is in a squared position against a platform.



The above diagram illustrates the proper procedure for maneuvering a vehicle in a straight line forward and backward in a limited area and how to properly judge side, front and rear clearance.

Chapter 3

Supplementary Information For All

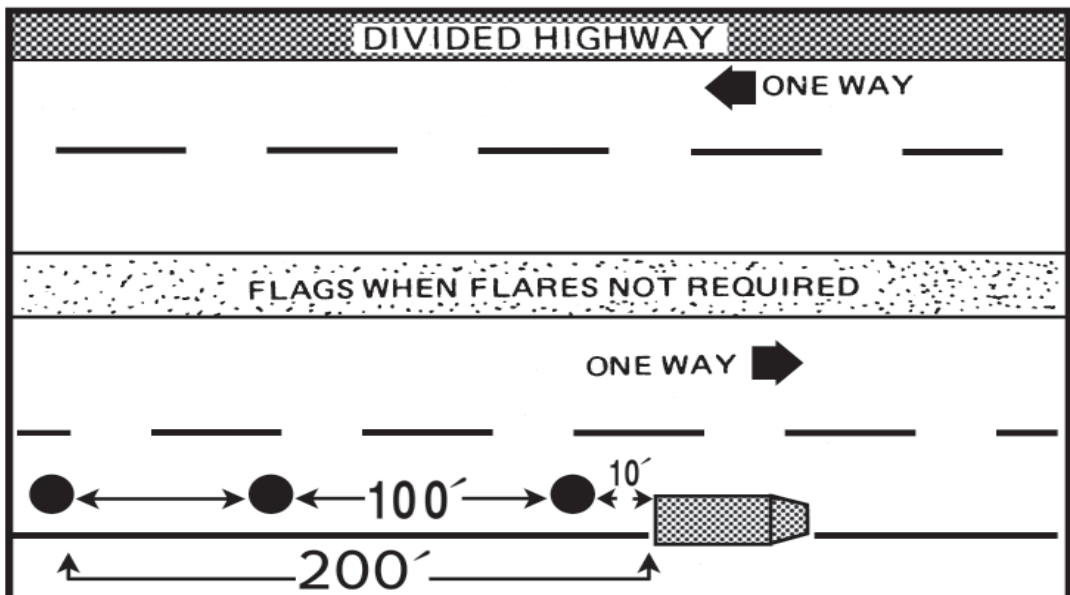
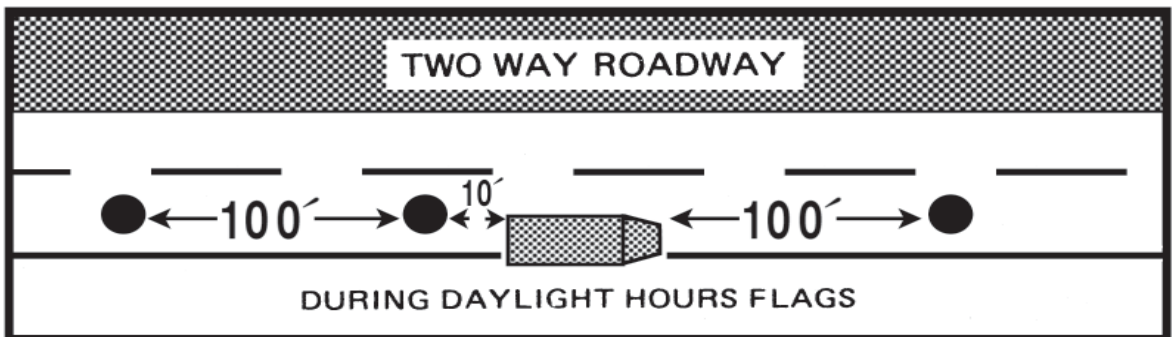
Class Applicants

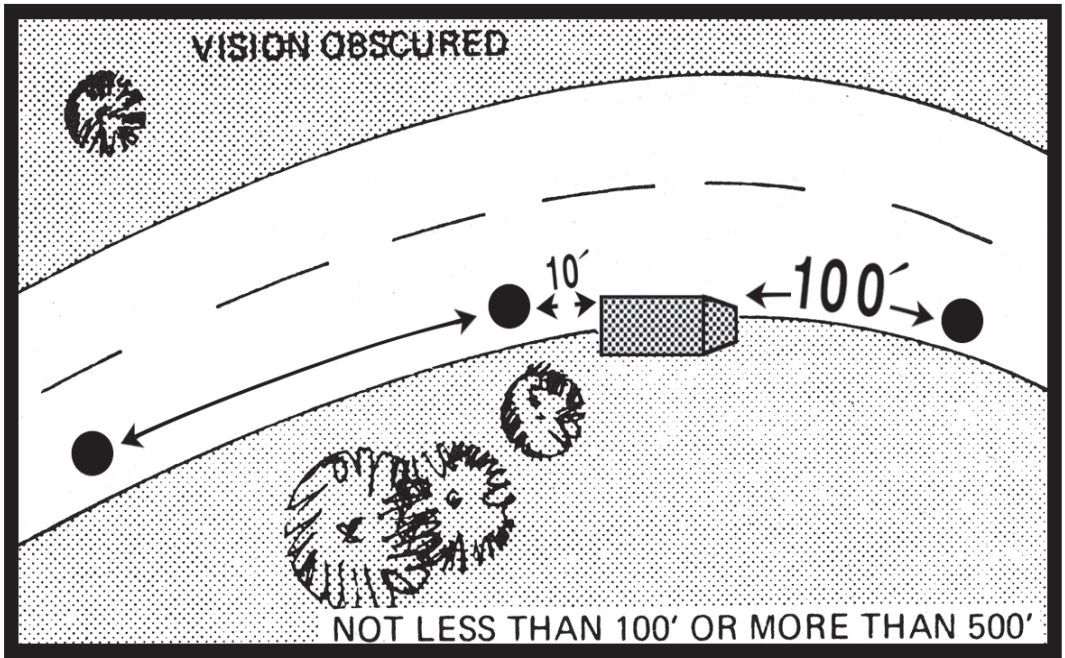
Special Equipment Requirements for Common or Contract Carriers

1. *Flares, Fuses, or Reflectors:* It is unlawful to operate a truck, bus or truck tractor licensed and registered with the Interstate Commerce Commission unless the vehicle is carrying the following: At least three flares, or three red electric lanterns, or three portable red emergency reflectors. In daylight hours two red flags must be carried and used in place of flare, lights, or reflectors, however, it is recommended that three flares always be carried. Motor vehicles transporting explosives, flammable liquids, flammable gases, or any motor vehicle using compressed gas as fuel must not use flares, fuses, or any signals produced by flame.

The first thing the driver of a disabled vehicle must do is flash the front and rear signals simultaneously as a hazardous warning and allow them to flash until flares, lanterns, or reflectors have been stationed.

(See diagrams)





2. *Fire Extinguisher:* All school buses, and trucks must carry a chemical type fire extinguisher of at least one quart capacity. Tractor-trailers or vehicles hauling explosives must carry not less than one fire extinguisher of at least one quart capacity.
3. *Turn Signal Indicators:* All motor vehicles, trailers, semi-trailers, or pole trailers (except motorcycles, mopeds and certain trailers) must be equipped with electrical turn signals when the body or load of the vehicle or combination of vehicles extends more than 24 inches from the center of the steering wheel, or the rear limit of the body or load exceeds more than 14 feet from the center of the top of the steering wheel.
4. *Mud Flaps:* All buses, trucks, full trailers, semi-trailers, and pole trailers must be equipped with safety guards or mud flaps behind the rear wheels which are at least as wide as the tires. These flaps must have a ground clearance of not more than one-half of the distance from the center of the rear most axle to the center of the flaps and are for the purpose of preventing the slinging of mud, slush, and gravel.
5. *Lamp or Flag on Projecting Load:* Whenever the load upon any vehicle extends to the rear 4 feet or more beyond the bed or body of such vehicle, there must be displayed at the extreme rear end of the load, at any time lights are required, a red light or lantern plainly visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the sides and rear. The red light or lantern will be in addition to a red flag or cloth not less than 12 inches square and must be displayed at the extreme rear end of any such load in a manner that makes the entire area visible to the driver of the vehicle approaching from the rear.

6. *Rear Vision Mirrors:* Every bus, truck and truck-trailer must be equipped with two rear vision mirrors, one at each side firmly attached to the outside of the vehicle and located as to reflect to the driver a view of the highway to the rear along both sides of the vehicle. Only one outside mirror is required, at the driver's side, on trucks which are so constructed that the driver has a view to the rear with an interior mirror.
7. *Brake Warning Device:* Buses, trucks, and truck-trailers must be equipped with a signal that provides a warning to the driver when a failure occurs in the vehicle's service brake system.
8. *Unlawful Tires:* It is unlawful to operate on a highway any vehicle with wheels having cleats, lugs, flanges, spikes or other extensions on the rim which would damage the road. This does not prevent the use of tire chains in snow or ice.

Size Limitations

1. *Height:* No vehicle, including the load it is hauling, may be more than 13 feet and 6 inches in height from ground to the top of load. The driver is responsible for determining that his load will safely pass under any bridge or overpass on his route.
2. *Width:* Vehicles, including the load it is hauling, may not be more than 8 feet wide without a permit.
3. *Length:* The maximum length allowed for a single motor vehicle or combination of vehicles is 55 feet. (Exceptions: Pole trailers and other trailers of a similar type may not exceed 75 feet in length and automobile carriers may not exceed 60 feet in length).
4. *Weight Limits:* The maximum weight allowed for any vehicle or combination of vehicles including the load is 80,000 pounds.

Vehicle Equipped With:	Maximum Weight Per Wheel	Maximum Weight Per Axle
High Pressure, pneumatic, solid rubber or cushion tires	8,000 lb + 13%	16,000 lb + 13%
Low pressure pneumatic tires	9,000 lb + 13%	18,000 lb + 13%

5. *Unloading:* If the gross weight of your vehicle is found to exceed the maximum gross weight allowed by law plus a tolerance of 13%, you may be required to unload down to the limit provided by law plus the tolerance, or if the axle weight is found to exceed the maximum allowed, the driver may be required to rearrange the cargo or unload the vehicle to the limits provided.

6. *Special Permits:* Anyone wishing to operate a vehicle whose length, width, height, or weight is in excess of the limitations, must obtain a special permit from the State Department of Motor Vehicle Safety, prior to operating the vehicle upon the streets and highways of Georgia.

Operating Rules

1. *Coasting:* The driver of a truck, tractor-trailer, or bus when traveling upon a downgrade must not coast with the clutch disengaged.
2. *Following:* When one truck is following another truck or vehicle it must keep far enough back to allow another vehicle to overtake and enter the space between them safely. (This does not prevent a truck from overtaking and passing another vehicle.)
3. *Improper Signaling:* Under no circumstances, even when traveling on a level highway, should a driver use turn signals to indicate that it is safe to pass. Such use only tends to confuse other drivers since the basic meaning of a signal is to indicate a turn into an intersection, road, or that the driver is pulling into another lane or passing a slow-moving vehicle.
4. *Railroad Grade Crossing:*
 - a. Any school bus carrying a school child and all other buses carrying passengers for hire must stop at all railroad grade crossings unless a traffic signal or police officer directs traffic to proceed.
 - b. All super-heavy equipment such as caterpillar tractors, steam shovels, derricks, rollers, etc., must notify the proper railroad authorities prior to making a crossing so that the necessary precautions may be taken.
 - c. Any vehicle carrying explosives or flammable liquids must stop within 50 feet but not less than 15 feet from the nearest rail of the railroad. The shifting of gears on railroad crossings must be avoided because of the danger of stalling on the tracks.

Safety Practices

1. *Clearances:* Drivers of larger vehicles must know their vehicle's weight and width and watch for clearance signs on bridges and underpasses. They should plan their proposed routes beforehand to take into consideration such potential hazards as steep and winding hills, low clearance of overhead structures and low weight limits on bridges. They can avoid dangerous situations by changing their route. They must remember that road repairs, rough roads, ice, floods, or empty equipment may cause difficulty where clearance normally is adequate. If no alternate route is possible, the safe driver makes certain he follows instructions contained in danger signs posted where perilous conditions exist.

2. *Improper Passing:* Some truck and bus drivers have the bad habit of switching on their signals and immediately pulling into traffic when the vehicles following are too close for safety. Another bad habit is the practice of pulling out to pass another large vehicle on a multiple-lane highway when the difference in speed is so small that the maneuver obstructs following traffic for an unreasonable period of time.
3. *Speed:* A truck or bus always seems to be going faster than it really is because of its size and louder noise. Therefore, a good driver always keeps the speed of the vehicle under control.
4. *Going Up Hills:* Obstructing traffic while going up hills is a common complaint against truckers. Reduced speed on hills is often unavoidable, but a good driver can reduce the delay to faster traffic by keeping to the right (using 4-ways if going really slow) and allowing the faster traffic to pass.

BICYCLING

Georgia's roads are growing more crowded. You, as a driver, or as a pedestrian, need to know and follow the rules of the road. You should also be aware of other traffic and be prepared for emergency situations.

Bicycle riding is an important part of transportation, particularly to work and to school. Because bicyclists may be on any road at any time, drivers must always be alert for bicycle traffic.

Bicycles are considered vehicles in Georgia, as in every other state. Since bicycles are vehicles, bicyclists must obey the same traffic laws as other drivers. They must ride on the right side of the road, and obey all traffic signs and signals, just like other traffic. A list of state laws concerning bicycles is on page 6. Many accidents happen because drivers do not see bicyclists soon enough. In Georgia, as in other states, most accidents occur during daylight hours on straight, dry roads, typically near intersection or driveways.

Bicyclists are legally entitled to use every road in Georgia except the interstate highways. Although their slower pace may pose problems for motorists occasionally, it is important for drivers to respect the bicyclist's right to be there. Yield the right of way to the bicyclist in the same way that you would to another motorist. If possible, make eye contact with the bicyclist, especially at intersections. If you use your horn as a signal, a gentle "toot" can alert the bicyclist without startling them.

Bike-car accidents cause the most problems for cyclists. Many happen at night, especially when the bicyclist doesn't use any lights. State law requires use of a front headlight and rear reflector; many bicyclist's use a rear light as well, for additional safety. Use lights if you ride your bicycle at night. Encourage others to do so.

Road defects cause more problems for bicycles than for cars. When passing a bicycle rider, leave the bicyclist plenty of room in case he or she has to swerve to miss a pothole or something in the road.

State law also requires helmets be worn by all bicyclists under the age of 16. Bicycle helmets save lives; most bicyclists' deaths come from head injuries, and up to 85% might be prevented if the bicyclists were wearing helmets.

Please watch for bike riders in these situations:

1. At intersections, wait until the bicyclist is out of the intersection before making a turn.
2. When passing a cyclist, slow down and make sure the rider is aware of your presence. Leave plenty of room between the bicycle and your vehicle. If there isn't enough room to pass because of other traffic, wait until it has gone by, and then pass.

3. Watch for bicyclists who may suddenly swerve or turn in front of you without warning. Cyclists sometimes forget to move to the middle of the road to make a left turn until they are at the turn.
4. Night time cyclists will not always have lights, some may not even have reflectors. Reduce your speed when driving at night, and be alert for them. If you meet an oncoming cyclist, please dim your lights to avoid blinding the bicyclist.
5. The bicycle is a primary vehicle for children under age 16 to transport themselves. Be certain your child has learned how to ride a bicycle properly.

For more information on bicycling, you may write to State Bicycle Coordinator, Georgia Department of Transportation, #2 Capitol Square, Atlanta, GA 30334.

BICYCLE SAFETY

Every person riding a bicycle upon a roadway must obey the same traffic laws governing the drivers of motor vehicles.

KNOW THESE BICYCLE LAWS:

1. Obey all signs, signals, and pavement markings.
2. Signal all turns and stops, using the standard hand signals.
3. Ride with traffic on the extreme right side of the road. Do not weave in and out of traffic.
4. Ride no more than two side by side. (It's safest to ride single file.)
5. Always use a bicycle path near the roadway, if one is provided (if local law requires it).
6. Never ride on any interstate or controlled access highways.
7. Never hang on to moving vehicles by any method.
8. Never carry a passenger unless an attached seat is available.
9. Keep at least one hand on the handlebars at all times.
10. Every bicycle must have brakes strong enough to skid the rear wheels on dry pavement.
11. Every bicycle, in use at nighttime, must have a headlight which is visible from at least 300 feet ahead, and a red rear reflector which is visible from 300 feet to the rear.

12. Bicycles, purchased by a retailer after July 1, 1972, cannot be sold unless equipped with reflector-type pedals which are visible during the night time for 200 feet to the front or rear.
13. It is unlawful to alter a bicycle which would cause the pedal in the lower-most position to be more than 12 inches above the ground.
14. The handlebars must not be raised to a height which would cause the bicyclist's hands to be above their shoulders in order to steer the bicycle.
15. No person shall transport a child under the age of one year as a passenger on a bicycle on a highway, roadway, bicycle path or sidewalk unless they are in an infant sling or seated in a bicycle trailer and wearing a helmet.
16. No child between the ages of one year and four years shall ride as a passenger on a bicycle unless they are securely seated in a child passenger seat, bicycle trailer or infant sling and wearing a helmet.
17. No person under the age of 16 years of age shall operate or be a passenger on a bicycle unless they are wearing a bicycle helmet. No bicycle without an accompanying protective bicycle helmet shall be rented or leased to a person under age 16 unless that person has in their possession a bicycle helmet.

40-6-298. Duty of Parents and/or Guardians

- (a) It is a misdemeanor for any person to do any act forbidden, or fail to perform any act required in this part.
- (b) The parent of any child and the guardian of any ward shall not authorize or knowingly permit such child or ward to violate any of the provisions of this part.